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Second session
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Chapter I

Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

1. The second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held at the headquarters of UNEP in Nairobi from 23 to 27 May 2016.

2. The session was opened at 10.20 a.m. on Monday, 23 May 2016, by Ms. Oyun Sanjaasuren, President of the Environment Assembly.

3. In line with rule 62 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations General Assembly, she invited the Environment Assembly to observe one minute of silence for reflection. Thereafter she introduced a film presentation entitled "Welcome to UNEA", in which Mr. Achim Steiner, the Executive Director of UNEP, gave an overview of the environmental threats facing the planet, inviting viewers to act to address those threats.

4. Opening statements were delivered by the Executive Director of UNEP; Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, on behalf of Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi; and Ms. Judi Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Water and Natural Resources of Kenya.[1]

[1] A fuller account of the discussions of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its second session, including summaries of the opening and general statements and of the Assembly's deliberations on the substantive issues before it, is contained in the proceedings of the session (UNEP/EA.2/19).

Chapter II
Organization of work (agenda item 2)

A. Attendance

5. The following Member States were represented at the session: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

6. The following non-Member State was represented: Cook Islands.

7. The Holy See and the State of Palestine were represented as observers.

8. The following United Nations bodies, secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented: Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ozone Secretariat, secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, secretariat of the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region, secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migrato y Species of Wild Animals, secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International

Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office at Nairobi, United Nations Office for Project Services, United Nations University, World Food Programme.

9. The following United Nations specialized agencies and related organizations were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development, International Labour Organization, World Bank, World Health Organization, World Meteorological Organization.

10. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: African Union, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Economic Cooperation Organization, European Union, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), International Organization for Migration, League of Arab States, Task Force of the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, New Partnership for Africa's Development, OPEC Fund for International Development, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Organization of American States, Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States (RECSA), Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme.

11. In addition, a number of non-governmental and civil society organizations were represented as observers. A full list of participants is set out in document UNEP/EA.2/INF/29.

B. Election of officers

12. The Assembly then elected the following officers by acclamation:

President:

Mr. Edgar Gutiérrez Espeleta (Costa Rica)

Vice-Presidents:

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed (Nigeria)
Mr. Emmanuel Issoze-Ngondet (Gabon)
Mr. Jassim Humadi (Iraq)
Mr. Ramon J.P. Paje (Philippines)
Mr. Vladislav Smrž (Czechia)
Mr. Nebojša Kaludjerović (Montenegro)
Mr. Denis Lowe (Barbados)
Mr. John Matuszak (United States of America)

Rapporteur:

Ms. Roxane de Bilderling (Belgium)

C. Credentials of representatives (agenda item 3)

13. At the 6th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, on the evening of Friday, 27 May 2016, the Rapporteur reported that 162 of the 193 States Members of the United Nations were represented at the current session. In accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 17 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau had examined the credentials of the representatives of those Member States and had found those of 149 to be in order. Those Member States whose credentials had been found not to be in order were treated as observers without the right to vote for the purposes of the current session. The Environment Assembly approved the report of the Bureau on credentials. Together with one additional Member State whose credentials were found to be in order at the 6th plenary meeting, a total of 150 Member States with valid credentials were represented at the second session of the Environment Assembly.

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

1. Adoption of the agenda

14. The Environment Assembly adopted the following agenda for the session, on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/EA.2/1/Rev.1 and Add.1/Rev.1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of work:
   (a) Election of officers;
   (b) Adoption of the agenda;
   (c) Organization of work.
3. Credentials of representatives.
4. International environmental policy and governance issues:
   (a) Illegal trade in wildlife;
   (b) Science-policy interface;
   (c) Chemicals and waste;
   (d) Marine plastic debris and microplastics;
   (e) Air quality;
   (f) Ecosystem-based adaptation;
   (g) Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme;
   (h) Sustainable development and poverty eradication;
   (i) Emerging and other relevant issues;
   (j) Coordination across the United Nations system on environmental issues;
   (k) Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements;

(l) Synergies among the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements;

(m) Environmental law.

5. Medium-term strategy, programme of work and budget, and other administrative and budgetary issues:

(a) Revisions to the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016-2017;

(b) Proposed medium-term strategy for 2018-2021;

(c) Proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018-2019;

(d) Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions;

(e) Other administrative and budgetary issues.

6. Stakeholder engagement.

7. High-level segment.

8. Provisional agenda, date and venue of the third session of the Environment Assembly.

9. Adoption of the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session.

10. Adoption of the report.

11. Other matters.

12. Closure of the session.

2. Organization of work

15. In accordance with the recommendations of the Bureau contained in the scenario note for the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP (UNEP/EA.2/INF/3), the Environment Assembly agreed to establish a committee of the whole. The Committee of the Whole would be chaired by Ms. Idunn Eidheim (Norway) and would consider agenda items 4, 5 and 8 at its meeting on the afternoon of Monday, 23 May 2016. It was further decided that an open-ended friends of the President group would be formed to assist the President in preparing the outcome of the high-level segment.

16. The Assembly also agreed that after the opening ceremony of the high-level segment, there would be a ministerial dialogue on Thursday, 26 May 2016, on the overarching theme of "Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", followed by the introduction of the global thematic report entitled "Healthy environment, healthy people" (UNEP/EA.2/INF/5) and a thematic session consisting of both plenary and parallel round-table ministerial dialogues on Friday, 27 May 2016.

17. A multi-stakeholder dialogue on the theme "Restoring and sustaining healthy ecosystems for people and planet: partnerships to deliver on the environmental

dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" would take place on Friday, 27 May 2016. The Environment Assembly would address agenda items 3, 6, 10, 11 and 12 at its afternoon plenary meeting on Friday, 27 May 2016.

18. In accordance with rule 18, the chairs of the Committee of the Whole and the friends of the President group would be invited to brief the Bureau of the Environment Assembly on a regular basis. The Environment Assembly further agreed, under rule 38 of its rules of procedure, to establish a maximum time limit of five minutes for all s atements by representatives of Member States and three minutes for those of representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

E. Briefing by the Executive Director

19. At its 1st plenary meeting, on Monday, 23 May 2016, the Executive Director delivered a briefing, a summary of which may be found in the proceedings of the session (UNEP/EA.2/19).

F. High-level segment (agenda item 7)

20. The 3rd to 5th plenary meetings on the morning and afternoon of 26 May, and the morning of 27 May, took the form of a high-level segment under item 7 of the agenda. The high-level segment consisted of opening ceremonies and ministerial plenary meetings featuring an interactive dialogue on the overarching theme of "Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", followed by the introduction of the global thematic report entitled "Healthy environment, healthy people", a thematic session consisting of both plenary and two parallel round-table ministerial dialogues and a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the theme "Restoring and sustaining healthy ecosystems for people and planet: partnerships to deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" on Friday, 27 May 2016.

21. The high-level segment was opened at 10.20 a.m. on 26 May by Mr. Edgar Gutiérrez Espeleta (Costa Rica), President of the Environment Assembly. During the opening ceremonies, remarks were made by dignitaries, who later posed with other high-level representatives for a commemorative group photograph. Following a performance by the Kenyan Boys Choir, Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP, gave a briefing on the state of the global environment.

22. The ministerial dialogue on "Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development" was convened on the morning of 26 May.

23. The ministerial policy review session on the theme of "Healthy environment, healthy people: delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" was convened on the morning of 27 May 2016.

24. Two parallel ministerial round tables on "Healthy environment, healthy people" were convened on the morning of Friday, 27 May 2016, following the opening of the ministerial policy review session on the same subject.

25. The multi-stakeholder dialogue was convened on Friday, 27 May, in accordance with Governing Council decision 27/2, on the implementation of

paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, under the main theme "Restoring and sustaining healthy ecosystems for people and planet: partnerships to deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

26. Further details on the high-level segment are provided in section VI of the proceedings of the session (UNEP/EA.2/19).

G. Work of the Committee of the Whole

27. The Committee of the Whole held seven meetings, from 23 to 27 May 2016, to consider the agenda items assigned to it. At the 6th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, on the evening of Friday, 27 May, the Chair of the Committee reported on the outcome of the Committee's work. The report on the proceedings of the Committee is set out in annex II to the proceedings of the session (UNEP/EA.2/19).

H. Report on the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

28. Ms. Julia Pataki (Romania), Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and Permanent Representative of Romania, drew attention to a note by the Executive Director on a report on the work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP (UNEP/EA.2/INF/25). Since the first session of the Environment Assembly, the Committee had focused on the preparations for the current session with the aim of positioning the Assembly as a key player in the implementation of major international agreements adopted by Member States in 2015 and strengthening UNEP as the world's leading environmental authority. The Committee had engaged in inclusive and constructive negotiations on key policy issues under the guiding principles of the Rio+20 outcome document to devise global solutions to global environmental problems. Highlights of the Committee's work included the development of a road map and theme for the current session; the consideration of an unprecedented number of draft resolutions for submission to the Assembly for its consideration; the preparation of options for changing the cycle of Environment Assembly sessions from even to odd years; and the identification of key messages to be included in the outcome document of the high-level segment of the second session, whatever its format. She also drew attention to challenges faced by the Committee in its work, including difficulties in communication with, and the inclusion in the negotiation process of, Member States without permanent missions in Nairobi; the reopening of discussions on paragraphs that had already been agreed upon and the need to set deadlines for the translation of draft resolutions into the six official languages of the United Nations. In order to improve preparations for the third session of the Assembly, the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, recommended that an analysis be undertaken of those paragraphs of the rules of procedure of the Assembly which, if amended, could increase the efficiency of negotiations in the intersessional period, including with regard to setting deadlines for the submission of draft resolutions or increasing the efficiency of Assembly sessions by nominating a chair of the committee of the whole prior to the meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Chapter III
Matters requiring the special attention of the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council

A. Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

29. At its 6th plenary meeting, on the evening of Friday, 27 May, the Environment Assembly adopted resolution 2/5 on delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which sets out the framework in which the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP will integrate its contribution to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

30. The salient elements of the Environment Assembly's framework of cooperation to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda include the commitment by the Environment Assembly to contribute to the effective implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in an integrated manner and to submit to the High-level Political Forum on a regular basis the main outcomes of its sessions supporting its role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. The resolution also calls for the development of regular reporting on the contribution by UNEP to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with a view to forwarding reports, by means of a resolution of the Environment Assembly, to the High-level Political Forum for its consideration.

31. Resolution 2/5 also specifies the mandate to increase the visibility, impact and recognition by the High-level Political Forum of existing scientific panels, such as the International Resource Panel and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which contribute to enhancing the coherency of the science-policy interface for sustainable development.

32. Furthermore, resolution 2/5 provides the mandate to enhance the role of the GEO reports — the sixth version of which is expected to be released in early 2018 — as an instrument to track progress with regard to the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, and the call to increase the relevance of the GEO reports as an input to the work of the High-level Political Forum.

33. In the same resolution, ministers responsible for the environment called on UNEP to provide to the High-level Political Forum information on emerging issues and risks that may have an impact on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda based on the early warning activities of the Programme, and entrusted the Executive Director with ensuring that the online information platform UNEP Live, which already covers the internationally agreed multilateral environmental goals, continues to provide credible, up-to-date information to support the follow-up and review of progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

B. Emerging and other relevant environmental issues requiring international attention

34. At its second session, the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP adopted 25 resolutions on key environmental issues requiring international attention.

35. At the session, the Environment Assembly considered the linkages between environmental quality and human rights, health and well-being. Beyond that thematic focus, the scientific evidence before the Environment Assembly revealed the broader drivers of those linkages, including dynamics related to environmental sustainability, such as unplanned urbanization, unhealthy and wasteful lifestyles, exposure to chemicals, unsustainable consumption and production patterns, pollution, depletion and unequal access to natural resources such as water and energy.

36. In that context, air pollution, addressed in resolution 2/21 on sand and dust storms, was identified as the world's single largest environmental risk to health.

37. In resolution 70/195 of 22 December 2015, the United Nations General Assembly recognized that sand and dust storms pose a great challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries and regions and acknowledged the role of the United Nations development system in promoting international cooperation to combat sand and dust storms, and invited all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes, including UNEP, to address the problem through various measures. In its resolution 2/21, the United Nations Environment Assembly called on UNEP to engage with all United Nations entities to support a United Nations system-wide approach to combating sand and dust storms globally.

38. Exposure to chemicals and wastes, addressed by resolution 2/7 on sound management of chemicals and waste, is another area requiring further attention throughout the 2030 Agenda and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, including goals 3, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

39. Climate change, addressed in resolution 2/6 on supporting the Paris Agreement, continues to be a major environmental driver that threatens the attainment of global sustainable development. In addition to risks estimated on the basis of different temperature increase scenarios, the relationship between climate change and crucial aspects of human wellbeing, such as personal safety, health and nutrition, which are addressed in the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals 2, 3 and 11, among others, are better understood now than ever before.

40. The degradation of ecosystems, addressed in a number of the resolutions adopted by the Environment Assembly at its second session, including resolution 2/13 on sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication; 2/16 on mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being; 2/10 on oceans and seas; 2/11 on marine plastic litter and microplastics and 2/12 on sustainable coral reefs management, also has important links with human well-being and is dealt with in Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 16.

41. In resolution 2/24 on combating desertification, land degradation and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands, the Environment Assembly recognized that healthy grassland and rangeland ecosystems contribute to economic growth, resilient livelihoods and the sustainable development of pastoralism, as well

as the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The benefits of taking action against land degradation by implementing sustainable land management activities are much greater than the costs of preventing land degradation.

42. In resolution 2/25 on application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in the Latin America and Caribbean Region, the Environment Assembly emphasized that broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings are essential for sustainable development. The resolution draws attention to the UNEP 2010 voluntary guidelines for the development of national legislation on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters (Bali Guidelines), and commitments contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the 2030 Agenda. Resolution 2/25 encourages countries to continue their efforts in support of implementing Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, and strengthening the environmental rule of law at the international, regional and national levels.

43. Many developments have taken place over the past decades to deepen understanding of the human rights-environment nexus, bring relevant institutions together, and promote the practical application of a rights-based approach to the environment. Resolution 2/15 on protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict recognizes the need to mitigate and minimize the specific negative effects of environmental degradation caused by armed conflict for people in vulnerable situations, as well as to ensure the protection of the environment in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict situations. It also recognizes the specific negative effects of environmental degradation for women and the need to apply a gender perspective with respect to the environment and armed conflicts.

C. Provisional agenda, date and venue of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

44. At its 6th plenary meeting, the Environment Assembly took note of the report by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole recommending the adoption of the draft decision, set out in a conference room paper, on the provisional agenda, date and venue of its third session (agenda item 8). The draft decision recommended that the third session of the Environment Assembly be held in Nairobi and, on an exceptional basis, over a three-day period, from 4 to 6 December 2017, as set out in resolution 2/22 on the review of the cycle of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP. In order to ascertain the feasibility of the proposed dates, the President of the Assembly deferred action on the proposal upon the recommendation of the secretariat. Subsequently, on 24 June 2016, the Member States of the Assembly confirmed, on the basis of no objection, the date and venue of the third session of the Assembly in the light of the confirmation in writing by the Executive Director of the feasibility of the proposed dates with regard to the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations.

D. Rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly

45. By its resolution 2/1, the Environment Assembly adopted amendments to the rules of procedure of the Environment Assembly. Rule 18 was amended to provide that during the final meeting of a regular session, the United Nations Environment Assembly will elect a President, eight Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur from among its members. Rule 20 was also amended to allow the Bureau to remain in office until the closure of the following regular session.

E. Review of the cycle of the United Nations Environment Assembly

46. In its resolution 2/22 on review of the cycle of sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP, the Environment Assembly decided to hold its regular sessions in odd-numbered years commencing with its third session in 2017. The Assembly requested the Executive Director to undertake resource mobilization efforts and to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on funding gaps, and also requested the Executive Director to present to the third session of the Assembly, where applicable, updates on the implementation of the resolutions adopted at its second session. In addition, it decided to defer to the fourth session of the Assembly the formal consideration of the reports by the Executive Director.

47. In the same resolution, the Environment Assembly invited the General Assembly to consider the report of the third session of the Environment Assembly at its seventy-second session. The Environment Assembly also decided to consider at its third session the organizational modalities of regular sessions of the Assembly in order to enhance the budgeting process of the Programme and to better assess the resources allocated by the United Nations for servicing the meetings of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

F. Medium-term strategy for 2018-2021 and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018-2019

48. By its resolution 2/20, the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted the proposed medium-term strategy for 2018-2021 and programme of work and budget for 2018-2019.

49. As part of its "Vision 2030", set out in the medium-term strategy for 2018-2021, UNEP is aiming to reduce environmental risks and increase the resilience of societies and the environment as a whole with the overarching goal of promoting the environmental dimension of sustainable development and enabling socioeconomic benefits. The key priority areas of UNEP, contained in its seven subprogrammes, also provide the building blocks for addressing the Sustainable Development Goals. An outcome map has been developed for each subprogramme with the aim of attaining a 2030 objective in response to relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets. Indicators are at the level of impact, allowing for the monitoring of the environmental dimension of sustainable development and regular reporting to the United Nations Environment Assembly, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the High-level Political Forum.

Chapter IV

Adoption of the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session (agenda item 9)

50. At its 6th plenary meeting, on the evening of Friday, 27 May, the Environment Assembly adopted by consensus the following resolutions, which are set out in the annex to the present report:

Resolution	*Title*
2/1	Amendments to the rules of procedure
2/2	Role and functions of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities
2/3	Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training
2/4	Role, functions and modalities for United Nations Environment Programme implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
2/5	Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2/6	Supporting the Paris Agreement
2/7	Sound management of chemicals and waste
2/8	Sustainable consumption and production
2/9	Prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste
2/10	Oceans and seas
2/11	Marine plastic litter and microplastics
2/12	Sustainable coral reefs management
2/13	Sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication
2/14	Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products
2/15	Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict
2/16	Mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being
2/17	Enhancing the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in facilitating cooperation, collaboration and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions
2/18	Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariats

Resolution	*Title*
2/19	Midterm review of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme IV)
2/20	Proposed medium-term strategy for 2018-2021 and programme of work and budget for 2018-2019
2/21	Sand and dust storms
2/22	Review of the cycle of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
2/23	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
2/24	Combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands
2/25	Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in the Latin America and Caribbean Region

51. At its 6th plenary meeting, on the evening of 27 May, which continued through to the early morning of Saturday, 28 May, the Environment Assembly considered a draft resolution on a field-based environmental assessment of the Gaza Strip, set out in a conference room paper. One representative, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution, which was co-sponsored by another Member State that did not belong to the same group, had been proposed following consultation with other political groups in an effort to reach consensus. She said that the resolution sponsored by the Group of 77 and China was of a technical nature and called for an analysis of the environmental impacts of hostilities in the Gaza Strip. Expressing the view that it would set a very negative precedent if the resolution were put to a vote at the current session, she asked for guidance from the President as to how to proceed, saying that the parties involved had made every effort to reach consensus but one party had been intransigent. Another representative, speaking on behalf of another group of countries, also requested that the resolution submitted by the Group of 77 and China be adopted by consensus, saying that it had been a desire to achieve consensus that had prompted the withdrawal of a similar earlier draft resolution in favour of the less controversial one presented by the Group of 77 and China. He recalled that the Governing Council of UNEP had adopted a decision on the same topic at its twenty-fifth session.

52. After the presentation of the draft resolution on a field-based environmental assessment of the Gaza Strip, one representative of a Member State called for a vote on the proposal. Another representative, agreeing with the view that putting the resolution to a vote would set a bad precedent in the Assembly, said that all the parties that had engaged in discussions on the draft resolution had done so in good faith and it had not been the case that a single party had been intransigent, but rather that no consensus had been reached. He therefore requested the proponents of the draft resolution to consider withdrawing it.

53. Following consultations, the representative of the Group of 77 and China reported that agreement had been reached not to withdraw the draft resolution. Another representative therefore requested that, prior to voting on the substance of the resolution, a procedural vote be held on whether or not to hold such a vote.

54. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of rule 55 of the rules of procedure, a procedural vote was then held on whether to vote on the substance of the resolution. Following the vote, it was revealed that the number of Member States of the Environment Assembly present at the time of voting had not totalled a majority of those States, as required by rule 32 of the rules of procedure. The Environment Assembly could not, therefore, proceed to vote on the draft resolution owing to the lack of a quorum. Subsequently, the draft resolution was set aside and no further action was taken on the matter by the Environment Assembly.

Chapter V

Stakeholder engagement (agenda item 6)

55. At its 1st plenary meeting, the President of the Assembly announced his intention to convene informal consultations among interested representatives of the regional and political groups on the proposal contained in the report of the Executive Director on a policy on stakeholder engagement (UNEP/EA.2/18), which presented the outcome of the informal open-ended consultations held by the President of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly with Member States on such a policy. The policy had been prepared pursuant to Governing Council decision 27/2 on the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, adopted by the Governing Council of UNEP at its first universal session, held in Nairobi from 18 to 22 February 2013. The aim of the informal open-ended consultations was to assess the positions of Member States regarding the outstanding elements of the new UNEP policy on stakeholder engagement, including, the definition of a stakeholder; accreditation process and criteria; access to pre-session and in-session documents; and meetings of accredited major groups and stakeholders with the Bureau of the Environment Assembly. Following the informal consultations among interested delegations, it was recognized that in the absence of an agreement by Member States on a intergovernmentally sanctioned accreditation process, wide consensus existed on recognizing that the current rules, mechanisms and practices for stakeholder engagement observed by the secretariat of UNEP and compiled in the *Handbook for Stakeholder Engagement*, constituted a basis for inclusive, broad and continued stakeholder engagement.

Chapter VI
Agenda items 4, 5 and 8

56. Agenda items 4 (international environmental policy and governance issues), 5 (medium-term strategy, programme of work and budget, and other administrative and budgetary issues) and 8 (provisional agenda, date and venue of the third session of the Environment Assembly) were considered by the Committee of the Whole. At the 6th plenary meeting of the Environment Assembly, on the evening of 27 May, the Chair of the Committee reported on the outcome of the Committee's work. The report on the proceedings of the Committee is set out in annex II to the proceedings of the session (UNEP/EA.2/19).

Chapter VII
Adoption of the report (agenda item 10)

57. At its 6th plenary meeting, the Environment Assembly adopted the proceedings of the session on the basis of the draft proceedings (UNEP/EA.2/L.1), on the understanding that they would be completed and finalized by the Rapporteur, working in conjunction with the secretariat.

Chapter VIII
Closure of the session (agenda item 12)

58. The second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP was declared closed at 4 a.m. on Saturday, 28 May 2016.

Annex

Resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its second session

2/1	Amendments to the rules of procedure
2/2	Role and functions of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities
2/3	Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training
2/4	Role, functions and modalities for United Nations Environment Programme implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
2/5	Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2/6	Supporting the Paris Agreement
2/7	Sound management of chemicals and waste
2/8	Sustainable consumption and production
2/9	Prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste
2/10	Oceans and seas
2/11	Marine plastic litter and microplastics
2/12	Sustainable coral reefs management
2/13	Sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication
2/14	Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products
2/15	Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict
2/16	Mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being
2/17	Enhancing the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in facilitating cooperation, collaboration and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions
2/18	Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariats
2/19	Midterm review of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme IV)

2/20 Proposed medium-term strategy for 2018-2021 and programme of work and budget for 2018-2019

2/21 Sand and dust storms

2/22 Review of the cycle of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

2/23 Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions

2/24 Combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands

2/25 Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in the Latin America and Caribbean Region

Resolutions

2/1. Amendments to the rules of procedure

The United Nations Environment Assembly

1. *Adopts* the following amendments to its rules of procedure:

(a) Rule 18 as amended reads as follows:

During the final meeting of a regular session, the United Nations Environment Assembly shall elect a president, eight vice-presidents and a rapporteur from among its members. These officers shall constitute the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly. The Bureau shall assist the president in the general conduct of business of the United Nations Environment Assembly. The chairpersons of such sessional committees or working parties as may be established under rule 61 below shall be invited to participate in meetings of the Bureau.

(b) Rule 20 as amended reads as follows:

The president, the vice-presidents and the rapporteur shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall commence their terms of office at the closure of the session at which they are elected and remain in office until the closure of the next regular session. Subject to the provisions of rule 18, they shall be eligible for re-election. None of them may hold office after the expiration of the term of office of the member of which the officer concerned is a representative.

2. *Decides* that the above amendments shall take effect at the beginning of its third session. Therefore the Bureau elected for the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly shall remain in office until the closure of its third session.

2/2. Role and functions of the regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling decision 27/2 of the Governing Council, taken at its twenty-seventh and first universal session, held in Nairobi from 18 to 22 February 2013, to strengthen the regional presence of the United Nations Environment Programme in order to assist countries in the implementation of their national environmental programmes, policies and plans,

Recalling also Governing Council decisions 13/6 of 1985 on the African environmental conference and 11/7 of 1983 on the Regional Programme for Africa, inviting the Governments of the region to convene, in cooperation with regional organizations and institutions, an African environmental conference to discuss national environmental priorities and identify common problems worthy of a regional programme of action to deal with serious environmental problems in Africa and requesting the Executive Director to provide the secretariat services for the conference through the Regional Office for Africa,

Recalling further Governing Council decision 20/11 of 1999 on support for cooperation between the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the United Nations Environment Programme through the regional offices for West Asia and Africa, requesting the Executive Director to support, within available resources, the goals and aims of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the regional offices for West Asia and Africa and to establish an appropriate mechanism with a view to supporting the implementation and coordination of regional programmes in the Arab region,

Recalling Governing Council resolution 10/V of 1982 recommending to the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean that they periodically convoke intergovernmental regional meetings on the environment in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to establish policies and a strategy for the region in this field and requesting the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to lend the support of the permanent secretariat for these intergovernmental regional meetings, through the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Welcoming the progress and achievements of regional forums of environment ministers to which the United Nations Environment Programme provides support, and recognizing those forums as important platforms for strengthening the engagement of countries in the preparation of and follow-up to sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly,

Acknowledging with appreciation the First Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok on 19 and 20 May 2015, co-hosted by the Government of Thailand,

Noting the request of the First Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia and the Pacific to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to hold regular sessions of the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia and the Pacific,

Expressing appreciation for the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment through its Regional Office for Africa,

Acknowledging the ongoing work of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, and taking note of the outcomes of the twentieth meeting of the Forum, held in March 2016 in Cartagena, Colombia,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, and in accordance with the programme of work and budget, to support and to facilitate convening and/or strengthening the existing regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, to support and to facilitate convening new regional forums of ministers of the environment and environment authorities upon the request of the regions, through the intergovernmental process, with all countries in the respective regions, and subject to the availability of financial resources;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to provide an update on progress made in implementing the present resolution through intersessional work relevant to the United Nations Environment Assembly as appropriate.

2/3. Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development, which the General Assembly took note of in its resolution 69/211 of 19 December 2014, as a follow-up to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development after 2014, and as endorsed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-seventh session,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", which includes, inter alia, a commitment to promoting education for sustainable development and to integrating sustainable development more actively into education beyond the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,[2]

Recognizing the key role of environmental education and training in achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Taking note of the Tbilisi Declaration on environmental education, the outcome of the first Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education, held in Tbilisi in October 1977, and of the Tbilisi Communiqué, the outcome document of the Intergovernmental Conference on Environmental Education for Sustainable Development held in Tbilisi in September 2012,

[2] See General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, para. 233.

Noting the rapid growth of the Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability since its launch in 2012, in the lead-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme to develop innovative educational tools and methodologies, including massive open online courses, for disseminating its knowledge base,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to provide technical assistance and capacity-building through access to environmental education, training and capacity-building opportunities, including increased capacity development to help Member States, upon request, to integrate the environmental dimension into their relevant curricula in line with the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition as appropriate;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to promote cooperation and interaction between the United Nations Environment Programme and the higher education community in mainstreaming environment and sustainability across education and training;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to enhance cooperation with all relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations University, the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and other international institutions, for better implementation of the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development;

4. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so and other relevant stakeholders to support the work of the United Nations Environment Programme to enhance environmental education and training;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the United Nations Environment Assembly.

2/4. Role, functions and modalities for United Nations Environment Programme implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/202 of 1 December 2015, which reaffirmed the Declaration of Barbados[3] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[4] the Mauritius

[3] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

Declaration[5] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[6] the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway[7] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[8] including chapter VII, on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012 on the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want," in which the General Assembly, among other things, called for the convening in 2014 of a third international conference on small island developing States,

Taking into account that Member States called for the strengthening of the United Nations system to support small island developing States in keeping with the multiple ongoing and emerging challenges faced by those States in achieving sustainable development,[9]

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 69/15 of 14 November 2014, in which the General Assembly endorsed the SAMOA Pathway, adopted at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which inter alia reaffirms that "small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development" and recognizes "the ownership and leadership of small island developing States in overcoming some of these challenges", while stressing that, "in the absence of international cooperation, success will remain difficult",

Recalling the outcome document of the ministerial segment of the first United Nations Environment Assembly for the institutional strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 adopting the outcome document of the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

1. *Expresses* its gratitude to the Government and the people of Samoa for hosting the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014 and for providing all necessary support;

2. *Acknowledges* the implementation of Governing Council decision 27/2 on the strengthening of the regional presence of the United Nations Environment

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[5] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[6] Ibid., annex II.

[7] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[8] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[9] "The future we want", para. 179.

Programme through the establishment of new Programme subregional offices for the Caribbean and for the Pacific, and encourages further efforts in that respect;

3. *Encourages* Member States to support, both actively and effectively, the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, particularly through partnerships in North-South, triangular and South-South cooperation on issues of importance to small island developing States such as financing, trade, technology transfer, capacity-building and institutional support;

4. *Also encourages* the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, to contribute as appropriate to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, and requests the Executive Director:

(a) To incorporate into the medium-term strategy and its ongoing programme of work, and clearly identify, actions that assist small island developing States in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, with an emphasis on partnerships, technology transfer, capacity-building, institutional support, monitoring, reporting and evaluation;

(b) To enhance the provision of strategic and targeted support in areas covered by the environmental dimension of the SAMOA Pathway, including, inter alia, sustainable tourism;

(c) To facilitate learning, exchange of information, and North-South and South-South cooperation between small island developing States, regions and other developing countries, particularly with regard to how they have adapted and implemented approaches such as sustainable consumption and production patterns and resource efficiency;

(d) To build national and subregional capacity for reporting against the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals, linking it to United Nations Environment Programme international environmental reporting platforms such as UNEP-Live and utilizing the Programme Indicator Reporting Information System for reporting under multilateral environmental agreements and the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to support small island developing States in actions to implement the SAMOA Pathway that will also contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

6. *Recognizes* that it and its subsidiary bodies can serve as an important forum for facilitating, and sharing information on, the implementation of the environmental dimension of the SAMOA Pathway by highlighting areas that need more action and directing attention and resources towards them as well as contributing to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to it on progress in the implementation of the present resolution, with an emphasis on programme activity outputs and impacts.

2/5. Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 adopting the outcome document of the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", and General Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, on the "Format and organizational aspects of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development",

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling the role of the high-level segment of the United Nations Environment Assembly in line with Governing Council decision 27/2 in setting the global environmental agenda and providing overarching policy guidance and defining policy responses to address emerging environmental challenges,

Recalling also the outcomes of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, including its commitment to ensuring the full integration of the environmental dimension throughout the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its request that the Executive Director develop system-wide strategies on the environment and promote a strong science-policy interface,

Recalling further the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision 27/9 on "Advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability",

Recalling the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,

Recalling also paragraph 40 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes that the means of implementation targets under Goal 17 and under each Sustainable Development Goal are key to realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and are of equal importance with the other Goals and Targets; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, can be met within the framework of a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development, supported by the concrete policies and actions as outlined in the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015, welcomes the endorsement by the General Assembly of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizes that the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is critical for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Recalling further paragraph 41 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, and recalling that the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development deals with the means required for implementation of the Goals and targets, the need to mobilize financial resources as well as capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technology to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms as mutually agreed, and that public finance, both domestic and international, plays a vital role in providing essential services and public goods and in catalysing other sources of finance, and acknowledging the role of the diverse private sector, ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives to multinationals, and that of civil society organizations and philanthropic organizations in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Welcoming the Secretary-General's report on the follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Taking note of the Executive Director's report on coordination across the United Nations system in the field of the environment, including the Environment Management Group,

Acknowledging the significant contributions to sustainable development made by multilateral environment agreements,

Acknowledging also that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an agenda for all and its successful implementation requires the involvement of all relevant stakeholders,

Stressing the importance of respecting, protecting and promoting human rights and gender equality and recognizing the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in delivering the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

I

Contribution of the United Nations Environment Assembly to delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. *Commits* to contributing to the effective implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner, through setting the global environmental agenda, providing overarching policy guidance and defining policy responses to address emerging environmental challenges, undertaking policy review, dialogue and exchange of experiences, and fostering partnerships for achieving environmental goals and resource mobilization;

2. *Also commits* to conveying the main messages of its sessions to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to support its function in the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

II

Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

3. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the leading global environmental authority, to enhance its activities, in cooperation with other United Nations entities, in support of the coherent

implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national, regional and global levels, taking into account the recommendations of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;

4. *Welcomes* the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the secretariat of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns and its support and requests the Executive Director to continue the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme to operationalize the six programmes of the framework, thus facilitating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

5. *Encourages* the Executive Director, within the mandate, programme of work and budget of the United Nations Environment Programme, to take action to enhance coordinated, coherent and integrated delivery within the United Nations system on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by, inter alia:

(a) Fostering partnerships and other means of cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies;

(b) Engaging with regional coordination mechanisms, as appropriate;

(c) Actively promoting the integration of the environmental dimension into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework at the country level;

(d) Enhancing institutional and human capacity-building at the national, regional and international levels;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its next session on progress in the implementation of the recommendations and findings of the Environment Management Group effectiveness report and the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment for the United Nations system and to invite the members of the Environment Management Group to report to their respective governing bodies on the progress of the Group's work;

7. *Invites*, as appropriate, the Secretary-General and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to continue their support for the implementation of the recommendations of the Environment Management Group effectiveness report as well as the system-wide framework of strategies on the environment;

8. *Encourages* the Executive Director to support Governments' efforts to enhance institutional and human capacities, as well as policy and legal frameworks, upon request, towards effectively integrating and implementing the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

9. *Underlines* the key role that cities and human settlements play in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and therefore calls on the United Nations Environment Programme to support the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable urban development in close cooperation with the United Nations Humans Settlement Programme, and other relevant United Nations entities, to continue to play an active role in the preparation of the Habitat III Conference and its follow-up;

10. *Encourages* the Executive Director to further promote, at the national, regional and global levels, synergies between multilateral environmental agreements, recognizing the institutional independence of the governing bodies of those agreements, with a view to increasing efficiency, effectiveness and inclusiveness and avoiding duplication of effort;

11. *Invites* multilateral environmental agreements to take into account relevant targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in their reporting obligations under those agreements;

III
Multi-stakeholder partnerships

12. *Requests* the Executive Director to initiate new multi-stakeholder partnerships, where appropriate, and within available resources, and strengthen existing ones, including with the private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, to promote activities that contribute to delivering the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

13. *Also requests* the Executive Director, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, to continue to consult international financial institutions and the private finance sector, building on the report of the United Nations Environment Programme inquiry, *The Financial System We Need*, with regard to issues at the intersection of finance and the environment in support of the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

14. *Welcomes* the co-coordinator role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, which is an important part of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, noting that there is an opportunity to promote coordination, coherence and cooperation to enhance synergies and efficiencies, in particular to enhance capacity-building initiatives of environmentally sound technologies and innovation as well as science, technology and innovation in other sectors in order to reduce harmful impacts on the environment;

IV
Follow-up and review

15. *Emphasizes* that the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, has an important role in the follow-up to and review of progress in implementing the environmental dimension of sustainable development, including the provision of policy-relevant information through assessment processes such as the Global Environment Outlook, as a contribution to the Global Sustainable Development Report and to the annual Sustainable Development Goals progress report, all of which should support the overall follow-up and review by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;

V
Science-policy interface

16. *Encourages* the Executive Director to continue the work of the United Nations Environment Programme, in a manner that avoids duplication, on indicators

to support monitoring the delivery of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

17. *Invites* the Executive Director to continue to raise awareness about environmental policies that have been proven effective in achieving sustainable development, in a manner that ensures the integration of its three dimensions;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the science-policy interface regarding the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by:

(a) Using data, disaggregated where applicable, and information from a wide range of sources across all relevant areas and strengthening cooperation with partners beyond the environment community, building on existing national and international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks;

(b) Continuing to collaborate with other relevant United Nations bodies and to facilitate the work of scientific panels that provide integrated assessments to support policymaking, especially those for which United Nations Environment Programme is secretariat, such as the International Resource Panel and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

(c) Increasing the visibility and impact of such assessments by presenting them to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and facilitating their dissemination to a wide range of audiences;

(d) Continuing to provide policy-relevant information, including the Global Environment Outlook assessments, to track progress regarding the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, as well as information on trends in global sustainability, and to present them to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to support informed decision-making with regard to strengthening implementation;

(e) Providing relevant reports and assessments that contribute to the development of the Global Sustainable Development Report, which shall inform the meetings of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the General Assembly;

VI
Assessments and early warning

19. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the Global Environment Outlook process, products and thematic assessments, which include assessments of the state of, the trends in and the outlook for the environment, and cover the internationally agreed environmental goals, take into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

20. *Also requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the early warning activities of the United Nations Environment Programme support relevant decision makers, as well as the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, through the provision of information on emerging issues and risks that may have an impact on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

VII
UNEP Live

21. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that UNEP Live, which already covers the internationally agreed environmental goals, provides credible, up-to-date information to support the follow-up to and review of progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, at all levels, by establishing a long-term plan for the maintenance of the programme and the relevance of its content and ensuring good traceability of the data and information made accessible through it;

VIII
Link with the programme of work, the budget and the medium-term strategy

22. *Reflects* in the programme of work, the budget and the medium-term strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme its contribution to the 2030 Agenda, which can be achieved by building synergies across the subprogrammes, by dedicating resources and by working with others towards that objective;

IX
Progress report

23. *Requests* that the Executive Director prepare a report for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its next session, reporting on the Programme contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a view to forwarding the report to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development for its consideration.

2/6. Supporting the Paris Agreement

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recognizing that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, which undermines the ability of all countries, especially those developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Welcoming the adoption of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Welcoming also the signature of the Paris Agreement by more than 170 countries at a ceremony held on 22 April 2016 in New York as well as the ratification of the agreement by 17 Parties to date,

Urging all Member States to ratify, accept or approve the Paris Agreement,

Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the main international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change and that the global nature of climate change calls for international cooperation without duplication of work,

Welcoming the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", welcoming also the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda

adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and taking note of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,

Commending the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to addressing the global challenge of climate change through its climate change subprogramme,

Recalling its resolution 1/8, on ecosystem-based adaptation,

Noting the importance of the global mobilization of relevant stakeholders to combat climate change and acknowledging with appreciation the results of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and in collaboration with other relevant organizations and stakeholders, to contribute to the implementation of pre-2020 global efforts to address the challenge of climate change by:

(a) Strengthening efforts in the areas of education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and cooperation;

(b) Reinforcing and stepping up the United Nations Environment Programme participation in partnership programmes and initiatives;

(c) Strengthening collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme, relevant United Nations bodies and other relevant stakeholders on work related to adaptation, mitigation and the transition to a sustainable future in a manner that reinforces synergies, avoids duplication and maximizes efficiency and effectiveness;

(d) Accelerating support to countries, especially developing countries, for building national readiness capacity to implement the Paris Agreement, implementation capacity and capacity to access finance and technology;

(e) Strengthening United Nations Environment Programme support to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

(f) Strengthening United Nations Environment Programme support for and contributions to global climate-change-related assessments;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present resolution at the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

2/7. Sound management of chemicals and waste

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, on chemicals and waste, and previous decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on that matter,

Recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is one of the essential requirements for sustainable development and that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents an opportunity to ensure increased political attention and effective implementation of actions in this area,

Welcoming the work undertaken in follow-up to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, notably its annex entitled "Strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term",

Welcoming also the cooperation and coordination in the chemicals and waste cluster, and recognizing the need to continue such cooperation and coordination in order to make full use of relevant experience and expertise in areas of mutual interest, with a view to fostering policy coherence and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels, as appropriate,

Recognizing that waste management is a serious challenge and a priority, as well as the need to undertake further focused and coordinated actions to assist developing countries in their efforts to ensure the environmentally sound management of waste,

Recalling the mandate and the focal role of the International Environmental Technology Centre, including on environmentally sound technologies, for the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on waste management, as reflected in Governing Council decisions 16/34 and 27/12,

Welcoming the Global Waste Management Outlook as a tool for providing an overview analysis and recommendations for policies and actions for environmentally sound management of waste and mindful that, according to the *Outlook*, at least 3 billion people worldwide still lack access to controlled waste disposal facilities and 2 billion people worldwide still lack access to solid waste collection,

Highlighting the importance of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal in the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other waste, including the ongoing work on the implementation of the Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes,

Highlighting also the role of the regional centres of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in assisting the regions in the implementation of these conventions, and in other relevant work relating to the multilateral environmental agreements in the chemicals and waste cluster in the countries they serve,

Deeply concerned about the health and environmental impact of waste lead-acid battery recycling, in particular through activities in the informal sector in developing countries, and the lack of adequate infrastructure needed to recycle the rapidly growing number of waste lead-acid batteries in an environmentally sound manner in certain developing countries, and noting the need to further reduce releases, emissions and exposures and to increase workers' safety and protection, including through the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality,

Recognizing the significant risks to human health and the environment arising from releases of lead and cadmium into the environment,

Recalling the request to the Executive Director, in Governing Council decision 27/12, section I, paragraph 4, to continue work on the Global Chemicals Outlook,

particularly in areas where data were found to be lacking or inadequate, to assess progress towards the 2020 goal,

Welcoming the outcomes of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session, including the adoption of environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants as a new emerging policy issue and of highly hazardous pesticides as a new issue of concern for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, on chemicals and waste,[10]

I
Meeting the 2020 goal and beyond

1. *Welcomes* the decisions taken at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, which include overall orientation and guidance as key elements to facilitate urgently needed coordinated actions by all stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels to meet the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management objective and the 2020 goal as defined in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", and as incorporated in target 12.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals;

2. *Calls on* Member States that have not yet done so to reflect the sound management of chemicals and waste as a priority in their national sustainable development planning processes, poverty eradication strategies and relevant sector policies, taking into account their development and capabilities and the national ownership of sustainable development strategies;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to, within available resources:

(a) Coordinate with relevant international stakeholders and support Member States, as appropriate, on policies and actions for the sound management of chemicals and waste for the achievement of relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

(b) Work with other United Nations agencies on the development of relevant data, including supplementary indicators, in support of the indicators developed under the auspices of the United Nations Statistical Commission;

(c) Issue, by the end of 2017, an overview for policymakers on policies and actions that could be adopted, as appropriate given national needs and priorities, in order to reach the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

4. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention, and in due course that of the Minamata Convention, to consider opportunities to report in a coordinated manner on how the respective conventions

[10] UNEP/EA.2/6/Add.3.

contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2030, taking into account applicable procedures;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director, given the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme as a participating organization of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, to proactively participate in and support the intersessional process agreed on at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to prepare recommendations on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, inter alia, to foster the active involvement of relevant industry stakeholders;

6. *Invites* the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and those Environment Management Group members that have not yet done so to take measures to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste, including actions planned within their own mandates to meet the 2020 goal and the 2030 Agenda;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to support countries, particularly developing countries, in the implementation of the integrated approach to financing for the sound management of chemicals and waste, keeping in view national circumstances and noting the importance of the approach for the achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular capacity-building activities to mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste;

8. *Calls on* the private sector, in accordance with this integrated approach, to play a significant role in financing, as well as to build the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises for the sound management of chemicals and waste within relevant industrial sectors;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to consider how successive updates of the Global Waste Management Outlook and the Global Chemicals Outlook could be accorded in timing and approach;

10. *Also requests* the Executive Director to cooperate with Governments, with the private sector, including industry, and with other non-governmental organizations to continue work on lead and cadmium;

II
Waste

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure full integration of environmentally sound management of waste, including the prevention of waste generation, in the programme-wide strategies and policies of the United Nations Environment Programme;

12. *Invites* all stakeholders engaged in environmentally sound management of waste to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme in order to implement the necessary policies, incentives and procedures to promote waste prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling and other recovery, including energy recovery, and to enhance co-benefits for climate, health and oceans;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen and enhance the work of the International Environmental Technology Centre as a global centre of excellence

for waste management, particularly work on a knowledge platform which can be accessed by all stakeholders, capacity-building for national- and municipal-level waste policies, strategies and action plans, as well as in delivering that assistance through partnerships, notably the Global Partnership on Waste Management, in close cooperation with all relevant United Nations agencies and regional centres and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements;

14. *Also requests* the Executive Director to issue an update of the Global Waste Management Outlook by the end of 2019, including a summary for policymakers, and ensure complementarity with the update of the Global Chemicals Outlook as appropriate and with the ongoing process for regional waste management outlooks, with a view to addressing, inter alia:

(a) The interlinkages between chemicals and waste, as requested in United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, paragraph 28;

(b) Options for implementation of actions to achieve relevant Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Strategies for increasing waste prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling and other recovery, including energy recovery leading to overall reduction of final disposal, including landfilling, and ensuring that such strategies address the need to manage waste in an environmentally sound manner, particularly so that harmful substances are properly separated from waste streams and adequately treated, and producers are encouraged to put more sustainable products on the market and support recovery and recycling schemes;

15. *Invites* Governments, relevant intergovernmental organizations, Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention regional centres, non-governmental organizations, industry, academia and other relevant stakeholders to support the Global Partnership on Waste Management and, where appropriate, to take the lead in partnerships in core areas of environmentally sound management of waste;

16. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to adopt control measures such as the following:

(a) To develop national strategies inter alia by encouraging extended producer responsibility to collect waste lead-acid batteries, so as to ensure that those batteries are recycled in an environmentally sound manner;

(b) To adequately address releases, emissions and exposures from waste lead-acid batteries, including recycling, through, for example, appropriate standards and criteria;

17. *Invites* Member States, in particular Member States in which a small amount of waste from waste lead-acid batteries is generated, to cooperate in collecting such batteries for processing at regional or national recycling facilities in accordance with relevant provisions of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and relevant regional conventions, such as the Bamako Convention;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources, to assist countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies

in transition, in their efforts to strengthen and enhance national, subregional and regional implementation of environmentally sound management of waste, notably by:

(a) Preparing regional waste management outlooks to enhance the availability of information, including on environmentally sound technologies related to integrated waste management, through the Knowledge Hub, as appropriate, and taking into account the Global Waste Management Outlook;

(b) Facilitating capacity-building and technology demonstration projects, in particular in urban areas, to promote the "3R" (reduce, reuse and recycle) approach by waste prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling and other recovery, including energy recovery;

(c) Providing access to available information on best available techniques and technologies for the environmentally sound management of waste;

(d) Developing work in the field of technology assessment through tools such as a methodology for sustainability assessment of technologies to enable decision makers to select the most appropriate technologies for achieving the environmentally sound management of waste;

(e) Providing capacity-building, with a multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement regulatory frameworks and programmes for the recycling of waste lead-acid batteries, including the role of the private sector therein;

19. *Emphasizes* the importance of the elaboration under and application of existing instruments to further environmentally sound management of waste, including waste prevention, minimization and recovery, to address the underlying causes of marine litter;

III
Chemicals

20. *Invites* countries, international organizations and other interested stakeholders, including the private sector, having relevant experience with the issue of sustainable chemistry to submit to the United Nations Environment Programme secretariat, by 30 June 2017, best practices, indicating how these may enhance the sound management of chemicals, inter alia through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and chemicals- and waste-related multilateral environmental agreements;

21. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a report in the first quarter of 2018 analysing the information received to assist the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management in considering the opportunities presented by sustainable chemistry, including linkages to sustainable consumption and production policies, and the possibilities that sustainable chemistry may offer of contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda;

22. *Welcomes* ratifications to date of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and invites other States and regional economic integration organizations to take, as soon as possible, the necessary domestic measures to enable them to meet their

obligations upon ratification and thereafter to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Minamata Convention on Mercury with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible;

23. *Requests* the Executive Director to:

(a) Submit by the end of 2018 an update of the Global Chemicals Outlook, including a summary for policymakers, addressing inter alia the work carried out particularly in relation to lacking or inadequate data to assess progress towards the 2020 goal, the development of non-chemical alternatives, and the linkages between chemicals and waste, in coordination with the Global Waste Management Outlook, and providing scientific input and options for implementation of actions to reach relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets up to and beyond 2020;

(b) Solicit feedback from countries and other stakeholders on the proposed plan for updating the Global Chemicals Outlook as outlined in UNEP/EA.2/INF/20, and ask the Global Chemicals Outlook steering committee to consider this feedback and to consider possible adjustments to the proposed plan, as appropriate, at its first meeting;

(c) Ensure that the updated Global Chemicals Outlook addresses the issues which have been identified as emerging policy issues by the International Conference on Chemicals Management, as well as other issues where emerging evidence indicates a risk to human health and the environment;

(d) Given the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme as a member of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, work with the Director-General of the World Health Organization to enhance that organization's engagement with the emerging issue of environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, particularly through strengthening the science base;

24. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, industry, academia and other relevant stakeholders to provide appropriate forms of assistance, within their capabilities, for the implementation of the present resolution;

25. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its next session.

2/8. Sustainable consumption and production

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, on the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", in particular those paragraphs relevant to sustainable consumption and production, and recognizing that fundamental changes in the way societies consume and produce are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", and

acknowledging Goal 12 on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, and considering that the objective of sustainable consumption and production is reflected in other goals and targets,

Recalling further the importance of moving towards sustainable consumption and production, and noting that all countries should take action, with developed countries taking the lead, and taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries, and acknowledging, when appropriate, that different approaches, including systems-based approaches such as sustainable materials management, the material-cycle society concept and a circular economy approach, at the national and regional levels as appropriate, contribute to sustainable consumption and production,

Recalling its resolution 1/1, on the outcome of its first session, in particular paragraph (c) of the fifth operative paragraph reaffirming the commitment of ministers to accelerating and supporting efforts to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, including through sustainable lifestyles and resource efficiency, and to accelerating actions, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, to implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as a tool for action on sustainable consumption and production, including its section on means of implementation,

Noting that efforts towards striving to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world and urban sustainability are important for supporting healthy ecosystem functions and services, and for enhancing food security,

Highlighting the commitment set out in paragraph 28 of General Assembly resolution 70/1 to making fundamental changes in the way that our societies produce and consume goods and services, including calling upon relevant stakeholders to contribute to changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns, including through the mobilization, from all sources, of financial and technical assistance to strengthen developing countries' scientific, technological and innovative capacities to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production,

Reaffirming the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, supporting its objectives and goals, and acknowledging the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the secretariat of the 10-Year Framework and as an implementing partner in all its programmes,

Acknowledging that the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns is a global framework for action to support regional and national initiatives to move towards sustainable consumption and production in both developed and developing countries in order to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems, by endeavouring to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production processes, and reducing resource depletion, pollution and waste,

Emphasizing the need to further strengthen programmes, partnerships and frameworks, such as the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, relevant to sustainable consumption and production to replicate and scale up sustainable consumption and production policies and good practices, respecting national ownership of countries' development strategies,

Welcoming efforts at various levels to promote sustainable consumption and production through regional frameworks and forums and other initiatives,

Highlighting the importance of promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, taking into account national capabilities and priorities to ensure sustainable provision and utilization of natural resources and materials throughout the value chain while also maintaining and rehabilitating ecosystems and their services/functions and contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and noting the importance of tools for facilitating and scaling up investments,

Acknowledging that further action is needed to address challenges posed by management of nutrients and their impact on the environment,

Recognizing the importance of evolving science and knowledge in terms of sustainable use of natural resources in the context of coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the work of the International Resource Panel,

1. *Encourages* Member States to take the necessary steps to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 12 and related targets in other Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account national capabilities and priorities recognizing the objective of moving towards sustainable consumption and production patterns, while improving global resource efficiency and endeavouring to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, with developed countries taking the lead;

2. *Encourages* all Member States, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to move towards sustainable consumption and production patterns, while taking into account national development priorities, policies and strategies, and to collaborate to:

(a) Promote life-cycle approaches, including resource efficiency and sustainable use and management of resources, as well as science-based and traditional-knowledge-based approaches, cradle-to-cradle design and the "3Rs" concept (reduce, reuse and recycle), and other related approaches, as appropriate;

(b) Facilitate actions including by exchange of experiences and capacity-building with regard to the life-cycle approach for materials, goods and services in order to use resources more efficiently;

(c) Promote the integration of sustainability into each stage of the life cycle of goods and services;

(d) Improve the availability of information that enables consumers, investors, companies and Governments to make informed decisions;

(e) Invite companies to adopt sustainable practices and to continue enhancing the reporting of sustainability information consistent with evolving international standards;

(f) Strengthen the enabling conditions for the creation of sound and equitable markets for secondary materials;

(g) Design and implement national sustainable consumption and production policies and action plans or broader sustainability strategies having sustainable consumption and production as a part, in accordance with national priorities and conditions;

(h) Integrate sustainable consumption and production into education and training to promote the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns in all countries;

3. *Also encourages* all countries and relevant stakeholders to take ambitious action to implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns and to achieve goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that are related to sustainable consumption and production, including by using the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns as a tool for implementing the 2030 Agenda;

4. *Further encourages* all countries to promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the United Nations Environment Programme continues and strengthens its work to facilitate coordinated efforts in all regions to ensure sustainable consumption and production and implementation of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that are relevant to sustainable consumption and production, including through continued efforts to provide support, analyses and data;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue and strengthen the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme to facilitate implementation of all programmes of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, taking into account national strategies, capabilities and priorities, including through:

(a) Strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships within and between the thematic programmes, including through strategic linkages with other global initiatives that showcase best practices, business cases, innovation and new business models for resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, and that facilitate implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;

(b) Broadening the funding resources for the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;

(c) Establishing implementing measures for the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, in support of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(d) Monitoring and evaluating progress towards implementing the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns through the indicator framework;

(e) Supporting statistical capacity-building in developing countries for adequate measurement, follow-up and review of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, including through the agreed indicators for Sustainable Development Goal targets related to sustainable consumption and production;

7. *Encourages* Member States and stakeholders, engaging both public- and private-sector interests, to collaborate to initiate partnerships and alliances in order to find innovative ways of achieving resource-efficient societies;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director in particular to initiate and strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships within available resources to facilitate sharing and implementation of best practices of sustainable consumption and production across relevant sectors;

9. *Invites* Member States to further develop and implement sustainable urban development policies that promote resource efficiency and resilience and respectively align sectoral policies such as transport, energy, waste and wastewater management and sustainable buildings and construction, including making use of opportunities from digitization, and requests that the Executive Director explore opportunities to strengthen cooperation in promoting sustainable urban development at the city level within the United Nations system and with other relevant stakeholders;

10. *Notes* that sustainable consumption and production approaches and policies at all levels, such as good practices, public-private partnerships and economic incentives, can be useful tools for improving sustainability in different areas, including urban planning, natural resource conservation, resources management, land use management and nutrient management, which can be promoted through regional frameworks and forums and other initiatives;

11. *Requests* that the Executive Director facilitate sharing of information and best practices within and between the programmes and activities of the United Nations Environment Programme and strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation to advance good practices and generate multiple benefits of sustainable consumption and production in different areas;

12. *Encourages* the Executive Director to continue to provide scientific and expert support through the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, in cooperation with relevant organizations, programmes and forums, to increase understanding of sustainable consumption and production patterns in the different regions and the effectiveness of policies, programmes and strategies in promoting sustainable consumption and production;

13. *Invites* the International Resource Panel and other relevant scientific and expert groups to make available reports relevant to this resolution, including on the state, trends, and outlook of sustainable consumption and production, to a future meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly, but not later than 2019;

14. *Encourages* Member States, and others in a position to do so, to mobilize voluntary contributions from multiple sources to support the Trust Fund of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns to develop sustainable consumption and production programmes in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition.

2/9. Prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Concerned that roughly one third of food produced globally for human consumption is wasted or lost, as is the vast quantity of scarce resources such as land, energy and water that are used to produce food that is later lost or wasted,

Recognizing the negative environmental, social and economic impact of food that is lost or wasted, including the vast quantities of scarce resources — such as land, energy, and water — that are used to produce and transport food that is later lost or wasted, and that food waste enters often overburdened waste management systems,

Recognizing also the international community's fundamental priority of achieving food security and nutrition and ending hunger caused inter alia by the adverse environmental effects of climate change and desertification,

Recognizing further that in developing countries food waste and losses occur mainly, but not exclusively, at early stages of the food value chain,

Recognizing the waste management hierarchy, which addresses both organic and inorganic components of solid waste, and prioritizes in rank order prevention, minimization, reuse, recycling and other recovery, including energy recovery, and final disposal,

Recognizing also that effective management of food waste would prioritize source reduction to reduce volume by prevention and minimization of food lost and wasted, reuse of safe and nutritious food suitable for human consumption that otherwise might be wasted, recovery of lost and wasted food residues for animal feed, where safe to do so, and diversion of food loss and waste from landfill disposal to beneficial use in industry, including energy recovery,

Recognizing further the role that market-based incentives may play in reducing food loss and waste, taking into account differing national circumstances,

Noting the particular roles and opportunities of relevant governmental institutions, including environment ministries, national institutions with environmental responsibilities, international organizations, agricultural ministries and other relevant ministries and their partners with responsibility for food security, in contributing to solving food loss and waste problems, with their particular orientation towards addressing socioeconomic, environmental and public health problems, while promoting sustainable-development-oriented solutions and opportunities,

Recognizing with appreciation the work of the United Nations Environment Programme to raise awareness of this important matter through the joint

"Think.Eat.Save" initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as the recent launch of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme under the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, which was developed through a strategic partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization,

Welcoming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes, inter alia, Sustainable Development Goal target 12.3 to halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels by 2030 and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses, and recognizing the positive impact that target 12.3 can have on the achievement of other Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 2,

1. *Invites* Governments, taking into account differing national circumstances:

(a) To implement programmes including, when appropriate, market-based incentives that reduce the amount of food lost and wasted, and to promote at all stages of the food value chain reuse of edible food that might otherwise be wasted in order to increase the amount of nutritious and healthy food available for human consumption, especially to the most food- and nutritionally insecure populations, and to reduce the amount of usable food that is disposed of as waste;

(b) To work cooperatively with international organizations and institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other interested stakeholders to develop programmes to prevent and reduce food loss and waste along the whole food value chain and promote the environmentally sound management of food loss and waste, including the inedible parts of food, for uses such as animal feed, where safe to do so, and subject to prevailing health regulations, industrial applications, composting and energy production, while respecting the waste management hierarchy;

(c) To participate in existing international efforts regarding improved methodologies to better measure food loss and waste generation and the socioeconomic and environmental benefits of achieving efficient and sustainable food systems;

(d) To engage in international cooperation with the objective of reducing and/or eradicating food loss resulting from contamination at the production stage by sharing technical knowledge and good practices that have proven to be effective in this regard and that contribute to the sustainable use of natural resources;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to, within available resources and in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant international organizations:

(a) Support the development of multi-stakeholder initiatives that focus on food waste reduction and prevention along the whole food value chain, including contamination at the production stage, food reuse, and diversion of food loss and waste from landfill disposal to other productive uses, making full use of existing partnership programmes related to food waste, and collaborate with other international organizations and institutions — for example, through the "Think.Eat.Save" initiative — as well as with the private sector, non-governmental

organizations and other interested stakeholders such as those involved in the recently launched Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;

(b) Enhance cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant United Nations agencies, with the purpose of supporting communities of practice that focus on food loss and waste reduction;

(c) Continue to participate in ongoing international initiatives to improve the measurement of food loss and waste, including those aimed at quantifying the socioeconomic and environmental benefits;

(d) Strengthen efforts, such as those being made by the International Environmental Technology Centre, to disseminate information on waste management in forums such as the Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, including information on the technologies available to prevent food loss and enable the reuse of food waste as a productive economic resource, and explore opportunities to collaborate with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to expand use of the products of food loss and waste as feedstock for biogas generation and composting;

(e) Continue to raise awareness of the environmental dimensions of the problem of food waste, and of potential solutions and good practices for preventing and reducing food waste and promoting food reuse and environmentally sound management of food waste, and to identify regional and subregional hubs of expertise, including by engaging the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme to advance these objectives;

(f) Report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its next session on progress made in implementing the relevant provisions of the present resolution.

2/10. Oceans and seas

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recognizing that the marine environment, including the oceans, seas and adjacent coastal areas, forms an integrated whole that is an essential component of the global life-support system and an asset presenting important opportunities for sustainable development,

Gravely concerned about threats to the health of our oceans, coastal areas, wetlands and islands, as reflected, inter alia, in the first global integrated marine assessment (World Ocean Assessment I) of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, acknowledged in United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/235, the fourth *Global Biodiversity Outlook* report[11] and the Fifth

[11] Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Global Biodiversity Outlook 4: A Mid-Term Assessment of Progress towards the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020*, Montreal, 2014.

Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,[12] and about their probable increase in the foreseeable future,

Recalling that General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 calls for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of "The future we want",

Recalling also the adoption by the General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and welcoming the inclusion therein of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its commitment on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, while recognizing also the connections between healthy and productive oceans and other Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 70/226 of 22 December 2015, entitled "United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development", and welcoming in particular the decision therein to convene the high-level conference in Fiji in June 2017,

Recognizing the contribution in accordance with international law of the regional seas conventions, regional action plans and regional fisheries management organizations to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other relevant related Sustainable Development Goals at the regional level, as well as to regional follow-up and review, including through the regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms to be developed for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

Recognizing also the important contribution of many multilateral environmental agreements to delivering on the oceans-related Sustainable Development Goals and contributing to their follow-up and review processes,

Recalling that the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", reaffirmed the commitment contained in Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 on area-based conservation measures, including marine protected areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information as a tool for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components,[13] and that target 14.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals calls for the conservation, by 2020, of at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas,

Recalling also the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and noting with concern the assessment in the fourth *Global Biodiversity Outlook* report, that, while there is significant progress towards meeting some components of the majority of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the rate of progress in most cases will not be sufficient to achieve the targets by 2020 unless additional action is taken,

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[12] *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*. Working Group II Contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, New York, Cambridge University Press.

[13] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, para. 177.

Recalling further Governing Council decision 27/6 on oceans, which urged countries to take the necessary steps to implement relevant and existing commitments, as well as commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, maintain biodiversity, and effectively apply an ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach in their management, in accordance with international law, of activities having an impact on the marine environment, in order to deliver on all three dimensions of sustainable development,

Acknowledging the United Nations Environment Programme contribution to tackling emerging issues and activities adding to pressure on the marine environment, and to increasing knowledge on issues such as marine litter, ocean acidification, hypoxia, and marine and coastal carbon sinks and reservoirs,

Recognizing the contribution of area-based management measures for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components under international instruments, such as particularly sensitive sea areas established by the International Maritime Organization, vulnerable marine ecosystems identified by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the work on marine protected areas under the regional seas conventions and action plans and other area-based management measures taken by regional fisheries management organizations, to reaching the target of Sustainable Development Goal 14 to, by 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information, and acknowledging related scientific and technical work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other global initiatives,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as a crucial step towards limiting the climate-change-related impacts of warming and acidification of the oceans and of sea level rise and reducing the adverse consequences for marine and coastal ecosystems and coastal residents worldwide, including for small island developing States and other vulnerable States,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/292 of 19 June 2015 on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction,

Taking into account the contribution which the United Nations Environment Programme can make, upon request by the concerned States, to assist them in the protection and preservation of the marine environment, including in helping to achieve their objectives under relevant international law,

Acknowledging the challenges involved in enhancing cooperation and coordination among international organizations and forums relevant to marine issues, and highlighting the value of the cooperation and coordination of the United Nations Environment Programme with these organizations and forums to contribute to coherent delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling the three priority source categories for work (nutrients, marine litter and waste water) under the 2012 Manila Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,

Noting the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017-2020 adopted at the seventeenth Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to include oceans-related aspects of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets in United Nations Environment Programme activities, in cooperation and coordination with relevant global and regional forums, agreements and organizations, consistent with international law, and to report on that work to the Environment Assembly at its next session;

2. *Calls* for continued cooperation and coordination on marine issues among all relevant global and regional forums and organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the International Seabed Authority, the International Whaling Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme, in order to deliver coherently on Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its interrelated targets;

3. *Invites* the Executive Director to provide the necessary input for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development, to be organized in June 2017, as appropriate;

4. *Calls on* Member States that have not yet done so to consider acceding to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, to promote its rapid entry into force;

5. *Invites* Member States and regional seas conventions and action plans, in cooperation, as appropriate, with other relevant organizations and forums, such as regional fisheries management organizations, to work towards the implementation of, and reporting on, the different ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to step up its work, including through its Regional Seas Programme, on assisting countries and regions in the application of the ecosystem approach to managing the marine and coastal environment, including through enabling intersectoral cooperation in integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning;

7. *Also requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to provide, upon request by the Member States, technical advice on the designation, establishment and active management of marine protected areas and on the application of other spatial management measures in cooperation with competent international and regional forums and organizations, including, as appropriate, multilateral environmental agreements and regional fisheries bodies;

8. *Encourages* Member States, individually and jointly and also within regional bodies, to designate and actively manage marine protected areas and take other effective area-based conservation measures, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information, with a view to achieving the related global targets, in particular where significantly less than 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas are so far being conserved, or where protected areas lack effective and equitable management, connectedness or ecological representativeness;

9. *Also encourages* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to participate in the process initiated by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/292 on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of the marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction;

10. *Notes* the document on the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017-2020 and requests the Executive Director to communicate the Strategic Directions to conferences of the parties, intergovernmental meetings or other governing bodies of the relevant regional seas conventions and action plans;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director, through the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Seas Programme, to reinforce cooperation, coordination, communication and sharing of best practices and information among the existing regional seas conventions and action plans across different geographical areas, in line with the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017-2020;

12. *Invites* Member States that have not done so to consider becoming parties to and/or members of regional seas conventions and action plans, and encourages the United Nations Environment Programme, through its Regional Seas Programme, to support initiatives by such Member States in that regard;

13. *Encourages* the contracting parties to existing regional seas conventions to consider the possibility of increasing the regional coverage of those instruments in accordance with international law;

14. *Acknowledges* and expresses support for the strategic partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization in the context of the 2030 Agenda, particularly for the implementation of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;

15. *Supports* the United Nations Environment Programme contribution to marine ecosystem restoration activities, and in particular to ecosystem management and restoration in coastal regions, nature-based solutions to climate adaptation and the creation of sustainable jobs and livelihoods in coastal regions, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships;

16. *Encourages* the United Nations Environment Programme to provide scientific support, in cooperation with relevant organizations, programmes and forums, to increase understanding of — and thus help in avoiding — abrupt, accelerating or irreversible environmental changes with potentially significant

global consequences — for example, thawing of the permafrost of the seabed and melting of sea ice and glaciers;

17. *Requests* the Executive Director to assess the effectiveness of the United Nations Environment Programme 2011 marine and coastal strategy and, on the basis of that assessment, submit a proposal for its updating, revision or replacement, for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its next session.

2/11. Marine plastic litter and microplastics

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling the concern reflected in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", that the oceans and marine biodiversity are negatively affected by marine pollution, including marine litter — especially plastic — persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals and nitrogen-based compounds, from numerous marine and land-based sources, and the commitment to reduce such pollution,

Recalling also the Manila Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, which highlighted the relevance of the Honolulu Strategy and the Honolulu Commitment for the prevention and management of marine debris and called for the establishment of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, which was subsequently launched at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and hosted by the Global Programme of Action,

Noting the increased knowledge regarding the levels, sources, negative effects of and possible measures to reduce marine plastic debris and microplastics in the marine environment, as summarized in, among other sources, the 2016 study "Marine plastic debris and microplastics: global lessons and research to inspire action and guide policy change", on marine plastic debris and microplastics, the preparation of which was mandated by the Environment Assembly in its resolution 1/6,

Noting also that the report of the First World Ocean Assessment points to the emerging issue of the smallest microplastic particles, which are nano-sized, and expresses concern about the ability of microplastics to enter marine food chains and the potential risk for the environment and human health,

Noting with concern that plastic and microplastics may be transported through freshwater systems such as rivers and are found in all compartments of the marine environment; that their input is rapidly increasing; that the plastics in the marine environment degrade extremely slowly; that the plastics contain and can adsorb and emit chemicals, such as persistent organic pollutants, and can contribute to their distribution and the spread of harmful organisms; and that all this has negative effects on marine life, ecosystems and ecosystem services, including fisheries, maritime transport, recreation and tourism as well as local societies and economies,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, by which the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recalling Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its target 14.1,

which seeks, by 2025, to "prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution", and recognizing the importance of other relevant Sustainable Development Goal targets, as well as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, for effective implementation,

Noting that the General Assembly in its resolution 70/235 of 23 December 2015, on oceans and the law of the sea, expressed concern regarding the negative effects of marine debris and microplastics and urged States to take action,

Recognizing the importance of cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and conventions and international instruments related to preventing and minimizing marine pollution from waste, including marine plastic litter, microplastics and associated chemicals and their adverse effects on human health and the environment, such as the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

1. *Recognizes* that the presence of plastic litter and microplastics[14] in the marine environment is a rapidly increasing serious issue of global concern that needs an urgent global response taking into account a product life-cycle approach, and acknowledging that the levels and sources of marine plastic litter and microplastics, and the resources available to tackle the issue, can vary between regions, and that measures need to be taken and adapted as appropriate to local, national and regional situations;

2. *Recalls* its resolution 1/6, "Marine plastic debris and microplastics", and urges all States that have not yet done so to implement fully all its relevant recommendations and decisions, including through national measures and regional, international and cross-sectoral cooperation;

3. *Welcomes* the activities of the relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Maritime Organization, which act in coordination with the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection and the Global Partnership on Marine Litter to prevent and reduce marine litter and microplastics; encourages the active contribution of all stakeholders to their work; and acknowledges the importance of cooperation and information sharing between the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Maritime Organization, as well as the cooperation under the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, on this matter;

4. *Acknowledges* the regional action plans on marine litter under the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, the Convention for the Protection and

[14] Plastic particles less than 5 millimetres in diameter, including nano-sized particles.

Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region; welcomes the ongoing development of such plans for the Black Sea, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Kuwait Regional Convention for Cooperation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution; welcomes the Group of Seven[15] action plan to combat marine litter; and urges other Governments and regions to collaborate to establish such action plans where relevant;

5. *Welcomes* the work under the aegis of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Whaling Commission and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals on impacts of marine debris on marine biological diversity, and under the aegis of the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region on pollution from vessels and from land-based sources, and calls for the coordination of that work with other relevant work in the framework of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter;

6. *Also welcomes* the report[16] of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation of the Assembly's resolution 1/6 on marine plastic debris and microplastics, takes note of the Executive Director's recommendations, and urges that they be evaluated, and possibly implemented as relevant and appropriate, including through strengthened national, regional and international measures, cooperation and action plans, prioritizing important sources and impacts and cost-effective measures, cooperation with industry, civil society and other stakeholders to reduce the input, level and impact of plastic debris and microplastics in the oceans;

7. *Stresses* that prevention and environmentally sound management of waste are keys to long-term success in combating marine pollution, including marine plastic debris and microplastics, calls on Member States to establish and implement necessary policies, regulatory frameworks and measures consistent with the waste hierarchy, and in this context stresses the importance of providing capacity-building and that Member States should consider financial assistance to developing countries, least developed countries and in particular small island developing States for the realization of these objectives;

8. *Welcomes* the United Nations Environment Programme massive open online course on marine litter; the United Nations World Ocean Day 2016 with the theme "Healthy Oceans, Healthy Planet"; and the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, which in 2016 will focus on marine debris, plastics and microplastics, and notes, in this regard, the report of the Secretary-General prepared for the meeting;[17]

9. *Recognizes* that surface runoff, rivers and sewage outfalls are important pathways for litter transfer from land to the sea; also recognizes the need for measures to combat the littering of freshwater courses, including measures to adapt

[15] Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

[16] UNEP/EA.2/5.

[17] A/71/74.

to extreme storms, flooding and other relevant effects of climate change; and encourages international cooperation on transboundary watercourses in that regard, where relevant;

10. *Also recognizes* that education, capacity-building, knowledge transfer and awareness-raising regarding sources and negative effects of and measures to reduce and prevent marine plastic debris and microplastics, as well as environmentally sound waste management systems and clean-up actions, are crucial;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director, within available resources, to assist Member States, especially developing countries, with emphasis on small island developing States and least developed countries, upon their request, in the development and implementation of national or regional measures and action plans; invites those in a position to do so to support such action; and recognizes that targeted measures in regions that are the largest sources of marine litter are especially important for the global reduction of marine plastic debris and microplastics;

12. *Recognizes* the need to identify transport and distribution pathways and hotspots of marine litter, to cooperate regionally and internationally to clean up such hotspots where appropriate, and to develop environmentally sound systems and methods for removal and sound disposal of marine litter; stresses that removal is urgent in areas where it poses an immediate threat to sensitive marine and coastal ecosystems or marine-based livelihoods or local societies; and recognizes that removal actions should, as far as possible, be risk-based and cost-effective, following best available techniques and environmental practices and the polluter pays approach;

13. *Encourages* Governments at all levels to further develop partnerships with industry and civil society and establish public-private partnerships, including with regard to environmentally friendly alternatives to plastic packaging and deposit refund systems; to raise awareness of the sources and negative effects of and possible measures for reducing marine plastic debris and microplastics; to promote change in individual and corporate behaviour; and to cooperate in the prevention and clean-up of marine plastic debris; and, in that regard, invites initiatives for the development of sustainable tourism, including through the Sustainable Tourism Programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;

14. *Recognizes* the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and regional fisheries bodies and management organizations to mitigate and clean up abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear, and encourages Member States and Governments at all levels to include such measures in national and regional action plans to combat marine litter, as relevant, noting that cost-effective technologies and practices are available;

15. *Underlines* the need for the sharing of knowledge and experience on the best available techniques and environmental practices for reducing littering from the fishing industry and aquaculture, and for implementation of pilot projects where appropriate, including in respect of deposit schemes, voluntary agreements and recovery, in particular through prevention and, reduction, reuse and recycling (the "three Rs");

16. *Recognizes* the role of the International Maritime Organization in mitigating marine litter; recalls annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships; and agrees on the need to reduce illegal dumping of litter in the sea, including through the establishment and use of effective port reception facilities, the identification and, as appropriate, recovery of costs related to the disposal of garbage and waste, including through harbour fees, and consideration of other incentives and innovative approaches;

17. *Acknowledges* the findings of the 2016 study of the United Nations Environment Programme on marine plastic debris and microplastics[18] on the most important global sources of and possible measures for avoiding microplastics entering the marine environment, and recognizes that Governments need to further identify the most significant sources, as well as important and cost-effective preventive measures at the national and regional levels; invites Governments to undertake such prioritized measures nationally and through regional and international cooperation and in cooperation with industry, as appropriate, and to share their experiences; and urges the phasing out of the use of primary microplastic particles in products, including, wherever possible, products such as personal care products, industrial abrasives and printing products, and their replacement with organic or mineral non-hazardous compounds;

18. *Encourages* product manufacturers and others to consider the life cycle environmental impacts of products containing microbeads and compostable polymers, including possible downstream impacts that may compromise the recycling of plastic waste; to eliminate or reduce the use of primary microplastic particles in products, including, wherever possible, products such as personal care products, industrial abrasives and printing products; to ensure that any replacement products are environmentally sound; and to cooperate in the environmentally sound management of such plastic waste;

19. *Also encourages* the establishment of harmonized international definitions and terminology concerning the size of, and compatible standards and methods for the monitoring and assessment of, marine plastic debris and microplastics, as well as the establishment of and cooperation on cost-effective monitoring, building as far as possible on ongoing related monitoring programmes and considering alternative automated and remote sensing technology where possible and relevant;

20. *Underlines* that, while research already undertaken provides sufficient evidence of the need for immediate action, more research is needed on marine plastic debris and microplastics, including associated chemicals, and especially on environmental and social impacts — including on human health — and on pathways, fluxes and fate, including fragmentation and degradation rates, in all marine compartments and especially in water bodies and sediment deposits of the coastal and open ocean, as well as on impacts on fisheries, aquaculture and economy; and urges Governments at all levels and Member States in a position to do so to support such research;

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[18] *Marine Plastic Debris and Microplastics: Global Lessons and Research to Inspire Action and Guide Policy Change*, UNEP, 2016.

21. *Requests* the Executive Director, in close cooperation with other relevant bodies and organizations, to undertake an assessment of the effectiveness of relevant international, regional and subregional governance strategies and approaches to combat marine plastic litter and microplastics, taking into consideration the relevant international, regional and subregional regulatory frameworks and identifying possible gaps and options for addressing them, including through regional cooperation and coordination, and to present the assessment to the Environment Assembly at its next session, within available resources for this purpose;

22. *Invites* States, in cooperation with industry and other stakeholders, at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, to organize and/or participate in annual campaigns for awareness-raising, prevention and environmentally sound clean-up of marine litter, including in coastal areas and oceans, to support and supplement the civil-society-driven beach clean-up days;

23. *Invites* those in a position to do so to provide financial and other support for follow-up to the present resolution;

24. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Environment Assembly at its third session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

2/12. Sustainable coral reefs management

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Noting that the General Assembly in its resolution 65/150 of 20 December 2010, entitled "Protection of coral reefs for sustainable livelihoods and development", urged States, within their national jurisdictions, and the competent international organizations, within their mandates, given the imperative for action, to take all practical steps at all levels to protect coral reefs and related ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods and development, including immediate and concerted global, regional and local action to respond to the challenges and to address the adverse impact of climate change, including through mitigation and adaptation, as well as of ocean acidification, on coral reefs and related ecosystems,

Noting also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", which states, "We also recognize the significant economic, social and environmental contributions of coral reefs, in particular to islands and other coastal States, as well as the significant vulnerability of coral reefs and mangroves to impacts, including from climate change, ocean acidification, overfishing, destructive fishing practices and pollution. We support international cooperation with a view to conserving coral reef and mangrove ecosystems and realizing their social, economic and environmental benefits as well as facilitating technical collaboration and voluntary information-sharing",[19]

[19] Endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012.

Considering the World Food Summit Plan of Action adopted in Rome in 1996, as well as the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security identified in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security of 2009,

Considering also Aichi Biodiversity Target 10, which aims to minimize the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification so as to maintain their integrity and functioning, and deeply concerned that the 2015 deadline has not been met,

Bearing in mind the outcome document of the 2015 United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in particular paragraph 14, which, inter alia, acknowledges that increases in global temperatures, sea level rise, ocean acidification and other climate change impacts are seriously affecting coastal areas and low-lying coastal countries, including many least developed countries and small island developing States, and also bearing in mind Sustainable Development Goal 14,

Recalling that General Assembly resolution 65/150 reaffirms that the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea provides the overall legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizes its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

Acknowledging the Manado Ocean Declaration, adopted by the World Ocean Conference on 14 May 2009, and the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity of 1995, as well as decision XII/23 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recognizing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities as well as the International Coral Reef Initiative Continuing Call to Action and Framework for Action 2013, which provide a meaningful basis for advancing ocean issues, as well as other international and/or regional entities related to the management of ocean and marine biodiversity,

Recalling the International Coral Reef Initiative resolution adopted in October 2014 on promoting an integrated approach to community-based coral reef conservation and management emphasizing land-sea connectivity,

Noting the Manado Communiqué, adopted at the World Coral Reefs Conference on 16 May 2014, which recognized the importance of continued cooperation among Governments and the United Nations Environment Programme as well as with other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and communities towards the sustainable management of coral reefs, and that such cooperation may be advanced by countries through the United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recognizing that, as is stated in General Assembly resolution 65/150,[20] millions of the world's inhabitants depend on the health of coral reefs and related ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods and development, as they are a primary source of food and income, add to the aesthetic and cultural dimensions of communities and also provide protection from storms, tsunamis and coastal erosion,

[20] Preambular para. 10.

Welcoming regional cooperation and initiatives, including the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security, the Micronesia Challenge, the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape Project, the Western Indian Ocean Partnership, the West African Conservation Challenge and the Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs in the Americas,

1. *Calls* for national, regional and international initiatives, cooperation and commitments to conserve and sustainably manage coral reefs, including cold-water coral ecosystems, and mangrove forests, which contribute to food security and nutrition for peoples' livelihoods;

2. *Stresses* the need to develop environmentally sustainable economic opportunities and inclusive sustainable growth to improve the livelihoods of the local community-level beneficiaries of coral reefs;

3. *Recognizes* that education, capacity-building and knowledge transfer with regard to the importance of coral reefs and related ecosystems, including cold-water coral ecosystems and mangrove forests, the threats to these ecosystems and recommended measures to ensure their protection and sustainable use, are crucial, and invites Governments in a position to do so to support such action;

4. *Encourages* Governments to further develop partnerships with industry, including fisheries, aquaculture and tourism, and civil society, and the establishment of public-private partnerships to raise awareness of the importance of coral reefs and related ecosystems, including cold-water coral ecosystems and mangrove forests, the threats to these ecosystems and recommended measures to ensure their protection and sustainable use; encourages Governments to cooperate in the protection and sustainable management of these ecosystems; and in this regard invites initiatives for the development of sustainable tourism, including through the Sustainable Tourism Programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production;

5. *Also encourages* Governments to formulate, adopt and implement integrated, ecosystem-based and comprehensive approaches for the sustainable management of coral reefs, cold-water coral ecosystems, mangrove forests and related ecosystems;

6. *Calls*, in this context, on countries to undertake the priority actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 on coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems;

7. *Encourages* Governments to prioritize coral reef conservation and sustainable management, including through the establishment and active management of marine protected areas, as well as through other spatial and relevant sectoral approaches, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information, with a view to enhancing climate change resilience and securing continued coral reef ecosystem services provision;

8. *Invites* Governments and donors to provide technical and financial support for the conservation and management of coral reefs, including in developing countries;

9. *Recognizes* the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs and affirms the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policymaking and implementation for the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular through the Coral Reef Unit and in cooperation with other relevant international organizations and initiatives, within the programme of work and available resources, to contribute to raising awareness through public outreach campaigns as well as the Global Environment Outlook assessment processes of the importance of the sustainable management of coral reefs and related ecosystems, including cold-water coral ecosystems;

11. *Also requests* the Executive Director, within available resources and in cooperation with Governments and stakeholders in a position to do so, to strengthen capacity-building, knowledge transfer and the development of relevant planning tools to avoid, minimize and mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change and human-based threats on coral reefs and related ecosystems, as well as to support the improvement and maintaining of the resilience of coral reefs and related ecosystems;

12. *Further requests* the Executive Director, in particular through the Coral Reef Unit and in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, forums and initiatives, to, within available resources, assist Governments, including those of small island developing States, least developed countries and other developing coastal States, upon their request, in the development and implementation of national and regional measures and action plans in this regard;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director, in cooperation with the International Coral Reef Initiative, other relevant international organizations and other relevant partners to prepare, by 2018, an analysis of global and regional policy instruments and governance mechanisms related to the protection and sustainable management of coral reefs;

14. *Also requests* the Executive Director to support the further development of coral reef indicators and regional coral reef assessments as well as the preparation of a global report on coral reef status and trends through the International Coral Reef Initiative Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, in collaboration with existing regional initiatives, and taking into consideration ongoing regional and global assessments;

15. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

2/13. Sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", and the Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Recalling also paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision 27/8 and resolution 1/10 adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly, which acknowledge that United Nations Member States have developed different approaches, visions, models and tools in order to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Acknowledging that natural capital is a concept whose meaning is still under discussion, and that, for the purposes of this resolution, natural capital assets have different intrinsic values and are subject to national jurisdiction and sovereignty,

Mindful that sustainable management of natural capital will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Mindful also of the importance of integrating information and data relating to natural capital into economic analysis, national planning and decision-making for sustainable management and use of these resources,

Taking note of the fact that natural capital and natural resource valuation and accounting mechanisms can help countries to assess and appreciate the worth and full value of their natural capital and to monitor environmental degradation,

Acknowledging the challenges faced by Member States in accurately valuing their natural capital and factoring it into their economic analyses, decision-making, national accounts and development planning processes,

Welcoming the agreement by the United Nations Statistical Commission on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting as a statistical standard and its decision to encourage the application and further refinement of the System's Ecosystem Accounts,

Noting that efficient, responsible, inclusive institutions, appropriate policies and laws, and implementation of relevant international instruments, including the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, can contribute to the promotion of good governance in the sustainable management of natural capital,

Noting also that sustainable harnessing of natural capital in a manner that ensures the protection of ecosystems and mitigates environmental degradation can help countries add value to their environmental assets and thereby contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda,

Taking note of outcomes related to discussions of natural capital, including the outcomes of the fifteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held under the theme of "Managing Africa's natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication"; the International Conference on Valuation and Accounting of Natural Capital for Green Economy (VANTAGE) in Africa; the eighth African Development Forum; the Summit for Sustainability in Africa, held in Gaborone in 2012; and the Natural Accounting Regional Workshop for the Europe and Central Asia Region, held in Istanbul in 2015 with a focus on natural capital accounting, among other issues,

Stressing that research and development, innovative technology, finance mobilization, capacity-building and knowledge sharing among countries are important for sustainably managing their natural capital,

1. *Invites* Member States to take measures to promote sustainable management of natural capital, including protection of ecosystem services and their functions, as part of the contribution to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;

2. *Recognizes* the importance of integrated, holistic and balanced natural capital approaches for enhancing the capacity for management of natural resources and for promoting sustainable development and poverty eradication in a coordinated and effective manner. These approaches shall aim to:

(a) Increase awareness on appreciation and value addition of natural capital resources;

(b) Build capacities to integrate the valuation and accounting of natural capital and natural resource contributions into national planning and decision-making for sustainable development;

(c) Promote public- and private-sector partnerships to support capacity-building and develop innovative approaches and technologies for promoting value addition to natural capital;

3. *Invites* Member States to incorporate information and knowledge on natural capital analyses into national accounts, development planning and decision-making, especially through implementing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting among others, in order to improve the sustainable use of natural resources for sustainable development;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director, in partnership with Member States, to continue to strengthen efforts led by the United Nations Environment Programme, including, among others, the Poverty-Environment Initiative, the Green Economy Advisory Services and the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, that seek to:

(a) Assess and monitor the status and trends of natural capital;

(b) Consider integrating natural-capital-related data, information, and knowledge into policy development and decision-making;

(c) Build capacity in Member States to apply, among others, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, consistent with Member States initiatives such as the Gaborone Declaration;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director in partnership with United Nations agencies and other partners to support countries, upon request and subject to availability of resources, in promoting:

(a) Awareness of natural capital and respect for nature, and their contribution to the sustainable development of countries and the wellbeing of their populations;

(b) Capacity-building mechanisms for sustainable management of natural resources and natural capital accounting;

(c) Public and private partnerships to promote sustainable management of natural capital, value addition and accounting, and reversing environmental degradation and biodiversity losses;

(d) Research and development and technological innovations, as well as the technical capacity to sustainably manage national natural capital;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the United Nations Environment Assembly no later than in 2019.

2/14. Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1/3 on illegal trade in wildlife,

Welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 69/314 of 30 July 2015 on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife,

Emphasizing the need to implement the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the General Assembly to transform our world,

Recognizing the important role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora as the primary mechanism for regulating international trade in species of wild fauna and flora listed in its appendices and the work of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime in supporting interventions to address illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife,

Recognizing also that cooperation at the bilateral, regional and international levels is an essential tool for preventing, combating and eradicating illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products, including through the use of relevant international legal instruments and resolutions of multilateral bodies,

Fully aware of the adverse environmental, economic and social dimensions of illegal trade in wildlife and its products, as well as its impacts on undermining progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Acknowledging that illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife can have negative impacts on public health,

Recognizing the important role that the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife can play in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in addressing illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife, inter alia, through the development of sustainable and alternative livelihoods for communities affected by illegal trade in wildlife and its adverse impacts,

Noting with concern that illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife and its products and other forms of crime that have a significant impact on the environment are increasingly committed by transnational organized criminal groups,

Taking note of the adoption of the African Common Strategy on Combating Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, the European Union Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking, and other relevant commitments to date by Member States to addressing the growing challenges of illegal trade in wildlife,

Welcoming the efforts by the United Nations system, under the guidance of the Secretary-General, in enhancing its collaborative and coherent response to illegal

trade in wildlife and its products, fulfilling the request to further improve the coordination of activities undertaken,

Welcoming also the report of the Executive Director on the environmental impact of illegal trade in wildlife and its products and the *World Wildlife Crime Report* of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Deeply concerned that illegal trade in wildlife and its products continues to take place, affecting a wide range of terrestrial and aquatic fauna and flora across all continents, despite global efforts to address this problem,

1. *Stresses* its commitment to implementing fully and without delay the commitments undertaken in United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/3 and General Assembly resolution 69/314;

2. *Urges* Member States to take further decisive steps and action at the national level and through regional and international cooperation, including with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime[21] and other partners, to prevent, combat and eradicate the supply, transit and demand related to illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, including by:

(a) Developing, adopting, and implementing appropriate strategies and action plans addressing illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products at the national and regional levels adapted to specific challenges and contexts;

(b) Strengthening their wildlife trade governance systems, including strengthening institutions, and cooperation across relevant government ministries and agencies, and stepping up anti-corruption and anti-money-laundering efforts as they relate to illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products;

(c) Providing support to the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime and the African Elephant Fund for the implementation of the African Elephant Action Plan, as well as international, regional (such as the Action Plan of the African Common Strategy on Combating Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora), national and local initiatives that aim to support the implementation of related action plans to combat illegal trade in and trafficking of wild fauna and flora and their products;

(d) Supporting the development of sustainable alternative livelihoods for communities affected by illegal trade in wildlife and its adverse impacts with the full engagement of the communities in and adjacent to wildlife habitats as active partners in conservation and sustainable use, enhancing communities' rights and capacity to manage and benefit from wildlife;

3. *Calls on* Member States to make illicit trafficking in protected species of wild fauna and flora involving organized criminal groups a serious crime, in accordance with their national legislation and article 2 (b) of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

[21] The members of the Consortium are the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization.

4. *Recognizes* the important role that non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and the private sector can play in action against illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to collaborate with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and other partners of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime and relevant United Nations entities to support Member States in implementing their commitments, including by:

(a) Advancing knowledge to underpin informed actions, including through the continuation of the assessment of the environmental impacts of illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife and its products;

(b) Supporting efforts to raise awareness and promote behavioural change in consumer markets for illegally traded wildlife and its products, including flora and fauna;

(c) Providing regular updates to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the report mandated under its resolution 1/3 on illegal trade in wildlife;

(d) Continuing to support the activities of the African Elephant Action Plan by mobilizing more contributions to the African Elephant Fund and raising awareness of the role of the Fund in the implementation of the Action Plan;

(e) Facilitating, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme, for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly, an analysis of international best practices with regard to involving local communities in wildlife management as an approach to addressing the unsustainable use of and illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to support national Governments, upon their request, in facilitating the development and implementation of national legislation related to illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife, including through capacity-building for, inter alia, prosecutorial investigations;

7. *Further requests* the Executive Director, within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, to work with other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental international organizations to ascertain and document the current status of knowledge of crimes that have serious impacts on the environment, including illegal trade and trafficking in wildlife and its products, in particular in terms of their environmental impacts, and identify interlinkages between these crimes, and to report thereon to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its next session;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution at the third session of the Environment Assembly.

2/15. Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Mindful of the importance of safeguarding the natural environment in times of armed conflict for the sake of future generations and to consolidate efforts for the protection of our common environment,

Recognizing the role of healthy ecosystems and sustainably managed resources in reducing the risk of armed conflict,

Expressing its deep concern about environmental damage inflicted by certain means and methods of warfare, in particular during armed conflict,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals listed in General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/37, entitled "Protection of the environment in times of armed conflict", which urges States to take all measures to ensure compliance with the existing international law applicable to the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict, to consider becoming parties to the relevant international conventions, and to take steps to incorporate such provisions into their military manuals; and General Assembly resolution 56/4, entitled "Observance of the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict",

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 50/70, entitled "General and complete disarmament"; General Assembly resolution 53/242, entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements", which reaffirms that, in accordance with its mandate, the United Nations Environment Programme should not become involved in conflict identification, prevention or resolution; and General Assembly resolution 57/337, entitled "Prevention of armed conflict", which recognizes the need for mainstreaming and coordinating the prevention of armed conflict throughout the United Nations system and calls upon all its relevant organs, organizations and bodies to consider, in accordance with their respective mandates, how they could best include a conflict prevention perspective in their activities, where appropriate,

Stressing the importance of the implementation by all Member States of international law applicable to the protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict in line with Member States' legal responsibilities, and in this regard welcoming efforts by the United Nations Environment Programme to build capacity and provide expertise to all Member States upon request,

Taking note of the 1994 Guidelines for Military Manuals and Instructions on the Protection of the Environment in Times of Armed Conflict of the International Committee of the Red Cross,

Recognizing the significance of the work on environmental protection carried out in the framework of the United Nations system and within other international bodies, including the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on providing assistance in monitoring, reducing and mitigating the impacts of

environmental degradation from armed conflicts, and on post-conflict assessments, as well as its activities in response to crisis situations throughout the world, including through delivering wide-ranging environmental expertise to national Governments and partners in the United Nations system,

Welcoming the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on the protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict,

Acknowledging the need for mitigating the environmental impact of activities of transnational and other organized criminal groups, including illegal armed groups, as well as the illegal exploitation and trade of natural resources in areas affected by armed conflict, and noting the role that the United Nations Environment Programme can play, within its mandate, to support Member States in addressing these challenges upon request,

Taking note of the ongoing process in the relevant sphere being undertaken by the International Law Commission, including its 2015 report on the protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts,

Recognizing that sustainable development and the protection of the environment contribute to human well-being and the enjoyment of human rights,

Recognizing also the need to mitigate and minimize the specific negative effects of environmental degradation in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict on people in vulnerable situations, including children, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons, and migrants, as well as to ensure the protection of the environment in such situations,

Recognizing further the specific negative effects of environmental degradation on women and the need to apply a gender perspective with respect to the environment and armed conflicts,

1. *Stresses* the critical importance of protecting the environment at all times, especially during armed conflict, and of its restoration in the post-conflict period, including from the unintended collateral impacts of human displacement resulting from armed conflict;

2. *Emphasizes* the need for raising greater international awareness of the issue of environmental damage during armed conflicts and the need to adequately protect the environment when it is affected by armed conflict;

3. *Urges* States to take all appropriate measures to ensure compliance with the relevant international obligations under international humanitarian law in relation to the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict;

4. *Calls on* all Member States to implement applicable international law related to the protection of the environment in situations of armed conflict, including in their domestic legislation as appropriate and in line with international obligations which they have signed on to, and to consider expressing consent to be bound by relevant international agreements to which they are not yet parties;

5. *Invites* Member States to consider reflecting the Guidelines for Military Manuals and Instructions on the Protection of the Environment in Times of Armed Conflict of the International Committee of the Red Cross;

6. *Also invites* all Member States to cooperate closely on preventing, minimizing and mitigating the negative impacts of armed conflicts on the environment;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in partnership with Governments, scientific institutions, United Nations agencies, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, within available resources and in conformity with the mandate of the Programme, to continue providing enhanced assistance to countries affected by armed conflict and countries in post-conflict situations, including those affected by the unintended collateral impacts of related human displacement, at their request, for post-crisis environmental assessment and recovery;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in partnership with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Governments and relevant stakeholders, within available resources and in conformity with the mandate of the Programme, to continue providing enhanced assistance to countries within whose territory natural World Heritage Sites affected by armed conflict are located, including those affected by the environmental impacts of the illegal exploitation of natural resources, at those States' request;

9. *Calls on* all Member States to continue to support, where appropriate, the development and implementation of programmes, projects and development policies aimed at preventing or reducing the impacts of armed conflicts on the natural environment;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue interaction with the International Law Commission, inter alia by providing relevant information to the Commission at its request in support of its work pertaining to the protection of the environment in relation to armed conflict;

11. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly as soon as possible, but no later than at the fourth session, on progress by the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of the present resolution.

2/16. Mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Reaffirming that the Convention on Biological Diversity establishes the objectives agreed on by the international community for the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources,

Underlining that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are sustained in a 2050 vision in which biodiversity is valued,

conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits that are essential for all people,

Reaffirming the need to promote synergies between the biodiversity-related agreements,

Underlining that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes goals and targets to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and priority ecosystems for advancing social well-being, economic growth and environmental protection by applying integrated approaches,

Underlining also the importance of adopting and implementing policies and guidelines for the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in all relevant sectors to ensure the fulfilment of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals,

1. *Notes* that the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization will take place in Cancún, Mexico, from 4 to 17 December 2016 under the theme "Mainstreaming biodiversity for well-being";

2. *Underlines* that the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity represents an opportunity to align, where appropriate, the plans, programmes and commitments adopted in the framework of those international instruments with the principles and approaches set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the aim of revitalizing the political support for the efforts undertaken at all levels to achieve the sustainable management of natural resources;

3. *Stresses* that the integration of policies set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an adequate approach for promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in various sectors, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, among others, which are interconnected, inter alia, with food security, economic growth, human health, the improvement of living conditions and the enjoyment of a healthy environment; and calls on Member States to promote the integrated approach in their national policies, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development;

4. *Expresses* its gratitude and support to the Government of Mexico as host of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and calls on all convened Parties to participate in a constructive manner to reach agreements that will contribute to the fulfilment of the objectives of the Convention.

2/17. Enhancing the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in facilitating cooperation, collaboration and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recognizing the benefits to be gained by implementing the biodiversity-related conventions in a synergistic and coherent manner so as to enhance their implementation, efficiency and effectiveness, and for which the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets provide a comprehensive framework,

Recalling decision SS.XII/3, on international environmental governance, adopted at the twelfth special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, which recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives, and recognizing their respective mandates, and invites the Executive Director to undertake, as appropriate, further activities to improve the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions, taking into account the autonomous decision-making authority of the respective conferences of the parties,

Recognizing the opportunities for promoting synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions in the context of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals and targets related to biodiversity,

Emphasizing the importance of acknowledging and building on past, existing and planned activities of biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant actors to identify and address opportunities to build synergies and increase coherence in the implementation of those biodiversity-related conventions,

Recognizing the need for all actors, including Governments, United Nations bodies, governing bodies and secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions, other international and national agencies, and all other relevant stakeholders to continue to promote and undertake mutually supportive efforts and approaches aimed at enhancing cooperation and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions,

Recalling paragraph 89 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", which acknowledges the work undertaken to enhance synergies among the three conventions in the chemicals and wastes cluster and encourages parties to the biodiversity-related conventions to consider further measures, in those and other clusters, as appropriate, to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication and enhance coordination and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions,

Welcoming the decisions of the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions that call for enhancing cooperation and synergies among those conventions,

1. *Welcomes* the results of the project led by the United Nations Environment Programme on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among

biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies, in particular the information document on elaboration of options for enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions;

2. *Also welcomes* the workshop on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, hosted by the Convention on Biological Diversity in Geneva in February 2016, and requests the Executive Director to transmit to the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related conventions the results of the project;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director, in an effort to enhance synergies, to share information and to strive to align the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme with decisions and resolutions of the respective conferences of the parties of the biodiversity-related conventions, and invites the respective conferences of the parties to be mindful of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme during their deliberations;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Director to promote the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and communicate at all levels the importance of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans as instruments for delivering coherent and effective implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions, including by mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into relevant sectors and policies;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Director to cooperate with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to facilitate the interoperability of data, information, knowledge and tools and enhance sharing of information among the biodiversity-related conventions, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the United Nations Environment Programme;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen coherent system-wide action on capacity-building for facilitating coherent and effective implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions, inter alia, through cooperation within the Environment Management Group, and in cooperation with members of the Biodiversity Liaison Group, as appropriate, in particular through the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, including through the United Nations Environment Programme regional offices, and by linking that work of the United Nations Environment Programme with United Nations country teams to contribute to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

7. *Also requests* the Executive Director to facilitate collaboration among the biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant United Nations bodies to contribute to the follow-up and review process of biodiversity-related goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals by the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;

8. *Invites* the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions, other relevant United Nations bodies and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to further strengthen their cooperation and enhance synergies among themselves, and invites them to consider

the results of the project on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies;

9. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to consider the development, in close cooperation with all relevant biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, of a follow-up strategic framework to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and invites the United Nations Environment Programme to support that process, including the work that the Subsidiary Body on Implementation is undertaking in this regard;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution, as well as the other contributions of the United Nations Environment Programme to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its next ordinary session.

2/18. Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariats

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling Governing Council decisions 26/9, SS.XII/1, SS.XII/3 and 27/13 as well as its own resolution 1/12, in which the Executive Director was requested to produce reports on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariats,

Acknowledging that since the United Nations Environment Programme and each of the multilateral environmental agreements have their own legally independent governance structures, decision-making bodies and procedures, it is beneficial for Governments to ensure that their policymaking on, and implementation of, relevant resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly and decisions of multilateral environmental agreements are mutually supportive,

Noting that specific provisions contained in each multilateral environmental agreement stipulate the key functions, prerogatives and responsibilities of the relevant governing bodies and secretariats for the operationalization of the agreements,

Noting also that when the governing bodies of multilateral environmental agreements decide to request that the Executive Director provide their secretariats, they accept that the multilateral environmental agreements' secretariats will become subject to the administrative and financial regulations and rules of the United Nations as applied to the United Nations Environment Programme and as supplemented by the multilateral environmental agreements' own financial rules,

Recalling that when the Executive Director has been entrusted with providing the secretariat for a multilateral environmental agreement, the Executive Director also requires the approval of the governing body of the United Nations Environment

Programme to establish appropriate arrangements for carrying out secretariat functions and to establish or extend the trust funds of that multilateral environmental agreement,

Noting with appreciation that the United Nations Environment Programme currently provides or will provide the secretariat for numerous multilateral environmental agreements, listed in the annex to the present resolution (hereinafter referred to as the "UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements"),

Recalling its resolution 1/16, which notes that agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme carries out the functions of the secretariat must be based on the principle of cost recovery when it comes to administrative costs, in line with the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations,

Noting the Executive Director's report on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements[22] and the work of the task team, which was based on close cooperation between the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements and the United Nations Environment Programme in preparing its recommendations,

Welcoming the steps taken by the Executive Director to improve the effectiveness of administrative arrangements, delivery of service, and the mutual supportiveness of programmes of work between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides a secretariat, including taking steps to implement the recommendations of the task team,

A

Institutional framework and accountability

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the secretariats of the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements, to develop a flexible draft template of options for the provision of secretariat services in an appropriate form, such as a memorandum of understanding between the Executive Director and the conferences of the parties or other relevant governing bodies of the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements, for their consideration;

2. *Encourages* the Executive Director, in establishing the delegations of authority to the heads of the multilateral environment agreement secretariats, to maintain the flexibility required on a case-by-case basis, including to reflect the size of the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats;

B

Administrative and financial framework

3. *Invites* the governing bodies of the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements to bring to the attention of the Executive Director any administrative or financial challenges they face as a result of the practical implementation of their memorandums of understanding;

[22] UNEP/EA.2/11.

4. *Also invites* the governing bodies of the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements to share among themselves good practices in respect of their budget and human resources management;

5. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to waive programme support costs on voluntary contributions for participation costs when arranging participation is done by administrative staff financed by the programme support costs on the operating budget;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare information for the governing bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements on the implications of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards for their operational budgets;

C
Mutual supportiveness of programmes of work

7. *Requests* the Executive Director, when invited to do so by the governing bodies of the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements, to foster mutually supportive programmes of work between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and make available relevant scientific information important to their work;

D
Future steps

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue his efforts in these matters in an open and transparent manner, and to report on progress made to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Annex

List of multilateral environmental agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme currently provides the secretariat or where decisions to that effect are in place

Agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme currently provides the secretariat

1. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
2. Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and its associated agreements
3. Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols
4. Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
5. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
6. Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa

7. Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

8. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

9. Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its protocols

10. Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) and its protocols

11. Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean (Nairobi Convention) and its protocols

12. Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention) and its protocols

13. Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians

Agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme currently provides the interim secretariat and the United Nations Environment Assembly has accepted that it should provide the permanent secretariat

14. Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention)

Agreements that specify that the United Nations Environment Programme should provide the secretariat upon entry into force

15. Minamata Convention on Mercury

2/19. Midterm review of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme IV)

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, adopted by the Governing Council in its decision 25/11 (I) as a broad strategy for the international law community and the United Nations Environment Programme in formulating activities in the field of environmental law for the decade beginning in 2010, and the midterm review called for in that decision,

Recalling also Governing Council decision 27/9 on advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability, Governing Council decision SS.XI/5 A on guidelines for the development of national legislation on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, and United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/13 on implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

Noting with appreciation the work of the meeting of senior government officials expert in environmental law on the midterm review of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, held in Montevideo from 7 to 11 September 2015, and the joint initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in their efforts to promote implementation of Principle 10, such as the guide *Putting Rio Principle 10 into Action*, as well as other efforts to that effect,

Recognizing that the further implementation of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, in addition to addressing emerging issues, should be undertaken against the backdrop of recent developments advancing sustainable development, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the further development of international environmental law, including multilateral environmental agreements concluded since 2010, as well as relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Emphasizing the need for activities in the field of environmental law — undertaken by Governments, legal experts, academics and relevant United Nations organizations, including the United Nations Environment Programme — to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director,[23]

1. *Invites* Member States to designate national focal points for exchanging information and building capacities in order to collaborate with and guide the United Nations Environment Programme in strengthening the application of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law and to monitor and evaluate its implementation;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director, in close coordination with the national focal points designated in paragraph 1 above, and subject to available resources, to:

(a) Prioritize action on environmental law during the remaining period of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law to support delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, consistent with the environmental objectives, and public health benefits such as those related to air quality, identified in recent United Nations Environment Assembly and Governing Council resolutions and decisions, bearing in mind the relevant recommendations of the meeting of senior government officials expert in environmental law on the midterm review of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law;

(b) Produce guidance to Member States for effective legislative, implementation and enforcement frameworks in a manner consistent with Governing Council decision 27/9 on advancing justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability and, as appropriate, United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/13 on implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;

[23] UNEP/EA.2/13.

(c) Prepare (i) an assessment of the implementation, effectiveness and impact of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, and (ii) proposals for the work by the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of environmental law for a specific period beginning in 2020; provide an opportunity for comment on the aforementioned assessment and proposals by relevant actors who are undertaking the implementation of the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, including major groups and relevant stakeholders; and submit the assessment and proposals for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its session to be held before the end of 2019.

2/20. Proposed medium-term strategy for 2018-2021 and programme of work and budget for 2018-2019

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Having considered the proposed medium-term strategy for the period 2018-2021[24] and the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018-2019,[25]

1. *Approves* the medium-term strategy for the period 2018-2021 and the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018-2019;

2. *Also approves* appropriations for the Environment Fund in the amount of 271 million United States dollars, of which a maximum of 122 million dollars is allocated to defraying post costs for the biennium for the purposes indicated in the following table:

Environment Fund programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018-2019

(Thousands of United States dollars)

A. Policymaking organs	1 700
B. Executive direction and management	7 800
C. Programme of work	
1. Climate change	32 300
2. Resilience to disasters and conflicts	21 500
3. Healthy and productive ecosystems	41 800
4. Environmental governance	36 000
5. Chemicals, waste and air quality	32 300
6. Resource efficiency	39 600
7. Environment under review	29 300
D. Fund programme reserve	14 000
E. Programme support	14 700
Total	**271 000**

[24] UNEP/EA.2/15.

[25] UNEP/EA.2/16.

3. *Stresses* the importance of early, extensive and transparent consultations between the Executive Director, Member States and the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the preparation of the draft medium-term strategies, strategic frameworks and programmes of work and budgets and the need for timely scheduling of meetings and provision of information to allow the full participation of all Member States throughout this process, and in this regard welcomes the progress made to date;

4. *Recalls* paragraph 13 of Governing Council decision 19/32, and commends the efforts of the Executive Director to ensure that the secretariat provides the documentation and information related to the medium-term strategy and programme of work and budget to Member States and the Committee of Permanent Representatives at least four weeks in advance of the meeting at which they are to be considered;

5. *Emphasizes* the need for comprehensive information, and full justification, regarding proposed expenditures and contributions from all sources of funding, including staffing information, to be provided to the Committee of Permanent Representatives well in advance of its consideration of the programme of work and budget, and requests the Executive Director to continue to hold timely consultations on the preparation of all future programmes of work and budgets prior to their transmittal to other appropriate bodies;

6. *Stresses* the need for the programme of work and budget to be based on results-based management and welcomes the progress in the implementation of the medium-term strategy for the period 2014-2017, as described in the programme performance report for the biennium 2014-2015 and the biennial evaluation synthesis report for the period 2014-2015;

7. *Notes* the progress made in increasing allocations from the Environment Fund to activities and operations in the programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019;

8. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to reallocate resources between subprogramme budget lines up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the subprogramme appropriations and to inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives thereof, and in duly justified exceptional circumstances to reallocate in excess of 10 per cent and up to 20 per cent of the appropriations from which resources are reallocated after prior consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives;

9. *Also authorizes* the Executive Director to adjust, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the level of Environment Fund allocations to subprogrammes, bringing them into line with possible variations in income compared to the approved level of appropriations;

10. *Further authorizes* the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million United States dollars for Environment Fund activities for the biennium 2020-2021;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to apply a prudent approach to the management of resources from all sources, including the Environment Fund, including through the careful management of contractual arrangements;

12. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue the current emphasis of the United Nations Environment Programme on the achievement of results for the achievement of programme objectives and the efficient and transparent use of resources to that end, subject to United Nations processes of oversight, review and independent evaluation;

13. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue to report to Member States, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a yearly basis, and to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its biennial sessions, on evaluation findings and the progress made in respect of the performance of each subprogramme and its expected accomplishments and on the execution of the budget of the Environment Fund, including voluntary contributions, expenditures and reallocations of appropriations or adjustments of allocations;

14. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to report to Member States, through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in a streamlined manner through the merging of progress reporting on administrative and budgetary matters with its programme performance reporting;

15. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue to organize regular briefings for the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the programme and budget performance of each sub-programme, to enable the Committee to perform its monitoring task adequately;

16. *Further requests* the Executive Director to ensure that the delivery of the programme of work supports and brings together regional and national programmes and activities in the medium-term strategy and the biennial programme of work and takes into account regional priorities and regional frameworks, where they exist, and requests the Executive Director to include information on regional programmes and activities in the progress report on the implementation of the programme of work;

17. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that trust funds and earmarked contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme are used to fund activities that are in line with the programme of work, apart from those funds administered by the United Nations Environment Programme on behalf of other intergovernmental bodies;

18. Encouraged by its universal membership, *urges* Member States and others in a position to do so to increase voluntary contributions to the United Nations Environment Programme, notably the Environment Fund, and also requests the Executive Director, in accordance with the partnership policy rules and the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, to mobilize increased voluntary funding to the Programme from all Member States and others in a position to do so as well as to continue to broaden the contributor base;

19. *Notes* the positive effect of the voluntary indicative scale of contributions to broaden the base of contributions to, and to enhance predictability in the voluntary financing of, the Environment Fund, and requests the Executive Director to continue adapting the voluntary indicative scale of contributions, inter alia, in accordance with Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 and any relevant subsequent decisions;

20. *Encourages* the Executive Director, in close consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to design and implement a resource mobilization strategy with the priority to broaden the contributor base from Member States as well as other partners so as to improve the adequacy and predictability of resources;

21. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit for consideration and approval by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a prioritized, results-oriented and streamlined programme of work for the period 2020-2021;

22. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue to monitor and manage the share of the Environment Fund devoted, respectively, to post costs and non-post costs, while clearly prioritizing the application of the resources of the Environment Fund to programme activities.

2/21. Sand and dust storms

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/195 on combating sand and dust storms, which recognizes that dust and sandstorms, and the unsustainable land management practices, among other factors, that can cause or exacerbate these phenomena, pose a great challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries and regions, and which also recognizes that in the past few years dust and sandstorms have inflicted substantial socioeconomic damage on the inhabitants of the world's arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid areas, especially in Africa and Asia,

Recalling also its resolution 1/7 on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality,

Recalling further the landmark resolution WHA68.8 on "health and environment: addressing the health impact of air pollution" adopted by the sixty-eighth World Health Assembly, which highlighted the fact that exposure to particulate matter posed a considerable health threat and was the leading environmental risk factor globally and regionally for non-communicable diseases and premature deaths,

Taking note of resolution E/ESCAP/RES/72/7 adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-second session to initiate regional cooperation to combat sand and dust storms in Asia and the Pacific,

Acknowledging the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme to fulfil the request addressed to the Secretary-General in General Assembly resolution 70/195 to prepare, in collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities, including the World Meteorological Organization and the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, a report entitled "Global assessment of sand and dust storms" to be circulated to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session,

Taking note of the World Meteorological Organization Sand and Dust Storm Warning and Assessment System programme, which is comprised of more than 15 organizations in different geographic regions, including two regional nodes, for North Africa, the Middle East and Europe in Spain and for Asia in the People's Republic of China,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to, within the programme of work and available resources, support Member States, in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities and other partners, in addressing the challenges of sand and dust storms through the identification of relevant data and information gaps, policy measures and actions, building on the "Global assessment of sand and dust storms" under General Assembly resolution 70/195 of 22 December 2015, and in connection with the ongoing efforts on air quality monitoring and assessment in response to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/7;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to engage with all relevant United Nations entities to promote a coordinated approach to combating sand and dust storms globally;

3. *Invites* Member States to intensify monitoring, data collection and knowledge-sharing on all relevant aspects of sand and dust storms, including their impact on ecosystems and human health and well-being; to explore opportunities for cooperation, including North-South, South-South and South-North; and to support the exchange of knowledge and best practices in addressing the problem through practical interventions at the policy, institutional and technical levels, as appropriate;

4. *Also invites* Member States, regional development banks and others in a position to do so to contribute financial resources towards regional initiatives and projects to address the challenge of sand and dust storms;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the United Nations Environment Assembly.

2/22. Review of the cycle of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 42/185 of 11 December 1987, 67/213 of 21 December 2012 and 67/251 of 13 March 2013 as well as Governing Council decision 27/2 of 22 February 2013,

1. *Decides* to hold its regular sessions in odd-numbered years commencing with its third session in 2017;

2. *Also decides* that the above-mentioned cycle shall also apply to the open-ended meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to be held in accordance with Governing Council decision 27/2;

3. *Further decides* that, on an exceptional basis:

(a) Its third session shall consist of a 3-day meeting without prejudice to the duration and functions of its high-level segment as set out in Governing Council decision 27/2;

(b) The third session of the open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall consist of a 3-day meeting and will be convened back-to-back with the third session of the Assembly in order to minimize financial costs;

(c) The fourth meeting of the Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall take place in 2017 and that the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall review the agenda and organizational modalities of the Subcommittee;

4. *Recognizes* that the cost of the 2017 Assembly's session and the 2017 open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives have not been reflected in the United Nations Environment Programme 2016-2017 programme of work and budget, and encourages Member States and others in a position to do so to contribute funds for the convening of these meetings;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to undertake resource mobilization efforts and to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on funding gaps;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to present to the third session of the Assembly, where applicable, updates on the implementation of the resolutions adopted at its second session, and *decides* to defer to the fourth session of the Assembly the formal consideration of the reports by the Executive Director;

7. *Invites* the General Assembly to consider the report of the United Nations Environment Assembly's third session at its seventy-second session;

8. *Decides* to consider at its third session, inter alia, the organizational modalities of regular sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly in order to enhance the budgeting process of the Programme and to better assess the resources allocated by the United Nations to servicing the meetings of the Assembly.

2/23. Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions,[26]

1. *Notes* that, in line with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme carries out the functions of the secretariat must be based on the principle of cost recovery when it comes to administrative costs;

[26] UNEP/EA.2/17/Rev.1.

I (a)
Management of multiple trust funds

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to prepare a report highlighting the challenges of managing multiple trust funds and to propose steps which could be taken to reduce the administrative burden of maintaining these trust funds;

I (b)
Trust funds in support of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme

3. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds, subject to the Executive Director's receiving requests to do so from the appropriate authorities:

A. General trust funds

(a) AML — General Trust Fund for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(b) CLL — Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, which was established in 2013 with an expiry date of 31 December 2019;

(c) CWL — General Trust Fund for the African Ministers' Council on Water, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(d) MCL — General Trust Fund in Support of Activities on Mercury and its Compounds, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(e) SLP — Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants, which is extended up to and including 16 February 2022;

(f) SML — General Trust Fund for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Quick Start Programme, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(g) WPL — General Trust Fund to Provide Support to the Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme Office and to Promote its Activities, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

B. Technical cooperation trust funds

(a) AFB — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP Activities as Multilateral Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund Board, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(b) BPL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Belgium (financed by the Government of Belgium), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(c) CFL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Framework Agreement on Strategic Cooperation between the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China and the United Nations Environment Programme, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(d) CIL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Remediation Activities Following the Toxic Waste Incident in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(e) IAL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Ireland Aid Multilateral Environment Fund for Africa (financed by the Government of Ireland), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(f) IEL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Priority Projects to Improve the Environment in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (financed by the Republic of Korea), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(g) IPL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Sweden), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(h) MDL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(i) REL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Promotion of Renewable Energy in the Mediterranean Region (financed by the Government of Italy), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(j) SEL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Agreement with Sweden, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(k) SFL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Framework Agreement between Spain and UNEP, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(l) VML — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action for the Protection of the Ozone Layer Under the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol (financed by the Government of Finland), which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

4. *Notes and approves* the closure of the following trust funds, subject to completion of their activities and clearance of all financial implications and obligations:

C. Technical cooperation trust funds

(a) GNL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund in Support of the Coordination Office of the Global Programme Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (financed by the Government of the Netherlands);

(b) TOL — Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers (financed by the International Organization of la Francophonie);

II
Trust funds in support of regional seas programmes, conventions, protocols and special funds

5. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following trust funds since the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly:

(a) BBL — Trust Fund for the Core Programme Budget for the Nagoya Protocol, which was established in 2014 with an expiry date of 31 December 2017;

(b) BXL — Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities; which was established in 2014 with an expiry date of 31 December 2017;

6. *Approves* the extension of the following trust funds, upon receiving requests to do so from the appropriate authorities:

(a) AVL — General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions in respect of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(b) AWL — General Trust Fund for the African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(c) BAL — General Trust Fund for the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(d) BBL — Trust Fund for the Core Programme Budget for the Nagoya Protocol, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(e) BCL — Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(f) BDL — Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(g) BEL — General Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(h) BGL — General Trust Fund for the Core Programme Budget for the Biosafety Protocol, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(i) BHL — Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities of the Biosafety Protocol, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(j) BTL — General Trust Fund for the Conservation of the European Bats Agreement, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(k) BXL — Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(l) BYL — General Trust Fund for the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(m) CAP — Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians and related Protocols, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(n) CRL — Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(o) CTL — Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(p) EAL — Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(q) ESL — Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asian Seas, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(r) MEL — Trust Fund for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(s) MPL — Trust Fund for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(t) MSL — Trust Fund for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(u) MVL — General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions in Support of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(v) PNL — General Trust Fund for the Protection, Management and Development of the Coastal and Marine Environment and the Resources of the Northwest Pacific Region, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(w) ROL — General Trust Fund for the Operational Budget of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(x) RVL — Special Trust Fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(y) SOL — General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observation for the Vienna Convention, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(z) SMU — Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the Secretariat of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(aa) VBL — Voluntary Trust Fund to Facilitate the Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities in the Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(bb) VCL — Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

(cc) WAL — Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019;

7. *Notes and approves* the merger of the following trust funds upon requests to do so from the appropriate authorities:[27]

(a) BIL: Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties, in particular the Least Developed and the Small Island Developing States among them, and Parties with Economies in Transition (Biosafety Protocol);

(b) BZL: General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Parties in the Process of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

8. *Approves* the extension of the merged trust fund, which has been renamed: BZL: Trust Fund for Facilitating the Participation of Developing-Country Parties, in particular the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, as well as Parties with Economies in Transition in Meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, which is extended up to and including 31 December 2019.

2/24. Combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Welcoming the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/1, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", including its Sustainable Development Goal 15; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, adopted at the third International Conference on Financing for Development, in particular paragraph 17; and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction,

Reaffirming its commitment to implementing General Assembly resolution 70/206 of 22 December 2015 on the implementation of the United Nations

[27] This decision is in line with paras. 24 and 25 of decision XII/32 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, which acknowledges that desertification and drought are problems of a global dimension and that joint action by the international community is needed to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought,

Recalling decision 3/COP.12 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification, which defined land degradation neutrality as "a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems",

Taking note of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, a shared strategic framework for inclusive and sustainable development for Africa; and of the African Union Policy Framework for Pastoralism in Africa: Securing, Protecting and Improving the Lives, Livelihoods and Rights of Pastoralist Communities,

Noting the outcomes of the sixth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in April 2016 in Cairo, including decision SS.6/4 on action for combating desertification, drought and floods and restoring degraded land to achieve land degradation neutrality,

Stressing the importance of cooperation and collaboration among the United Nations Environment Programme, the Convention to Combat Desertification and other multilateral environmental agreements in combating desertification and land degradation,

Recognizing that healthy grassland and rangeland ecosystems are vital for contributing to economic growth, resilient livelihoods and the sustainable development of pastoralism; regulating the flow of water; maintaining soil stability and biodiversity; and supporting carbon sequestration, tourism, and other ecosystem goods and services, as well as distinct lifestyles and cultures, and that they can play a significant role in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda,

Aware that a significant proportion of the earth's terrestrial surface is classified as rangeland and grassland, that these biomes dominate land cover in dryland countries and countries affected by desertification, that a significant number of pastoralists in the world inhabit rangelands and grasslands, and that pastoralism is globally practiced in many different forms,

Recognizing that pastoralism is a historical practice that in many countries is very much linked to the distinct cultures, identities, traditional knowledge and way of life of indigenous peoples and local communities across the globe that have often contributed to enhancing and maintaining biodiversity, food security and sustainable management of rangelands,

Recognizing also that pastoralism, as a dynamic and transformative system based on indigenous and local knowledge and historical experience of coexisting with nature, faces different challenges around the world, including land tenure insecurity; insufficient investment; inequitable development; inadequate levels of literacy; lack of adequate technology, infrastructure and access to markets; unsustainable changes in the use of land and natural resources; limited access to

social and extension services; security of the pastoralists and the communities through which they traverse; and increasing vulnerability to climate change,

Observing that drought has major implications in terms of loss of human lives, food insecurity, degradation of natural resources, negative consequences on flora and fauna, poverty and social unrest, and that there are increasingly immediate short-term and long-term economic losses in a number of economic sectors including, inter alia, agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, water supply, industry, energy production and tourism,

Recognizing that the benefits of taking action against land degradation by implementing sustainable land management activities are much higher than the costs of preventing land degradation, and that actions to combat land degradation and promote land restoration can help address forced displacement and global instability and therefore should be integrated with poverty reduction measures in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals focusing on enhancing food security and nutrition,

Recognizing also the relevance of sustainable pastoralism to several subprogrammes and thematic areas of the United Nations Environment Programme, and acknowledging the collaborative efforts of many United Nations agencies, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization and intergovernmental and civil-society partners,

1. *Calls on* the United Nations Environment Programme to contribute to strengthening existing global partnerships that promote a shared vision of resilient landscapes for resilient people and strengthen coordination in the fight against desertification and land degradation;

2. *Encourages* Member States to increase efforts to invest in programmes that address problems of desertification, deforestation, drought, biodiversity loss, degradation of rangelands, invasion of alien species, and water scarcity, in order to maintain and improve the productivity and sustainable management of land, through national development policies, strategies and programmes developed in consultation and/or in cooperation with key stakeholders, as appropriate;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to provide support to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to facilitate the sharing of best practices for the development and implementation of strategic frameworks and early warning systems for enhanced disaster risk management, sustainable land management, land restoration and resilience to drought;

4. *Encourages* Member States to invest in disaster risk management, early warning systems and safety-net programmes, as appropriate, in order to help communities cope with drought, flooding and disease;

5. *Strongly encourages* Member States to recognize and include in national policies, strategies and plans, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, references to relevant Sustainable Development Goal targets, including on improved livelihood security, social services, and natural resources for pastoralists and indigenous peoples;

6. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to collaborate with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and other partners to mobilize resources to help Member States affected by desertification, upon request, to develop, implement and review National Action Programmes;

7. *Calls on* Member States to take action towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and reaching voluntary targets regarding land degradation neutrality, in accordance with specific national circumstances and development priorities, in line with decision 3/COP.12 adopted at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and encourages the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, to provide required technical support to countries in this regard;

8. *Urges* Member States to build the capacity of and continue or increase investment in the pastoral livestock sector, including for sustainable land management practices, improved and/or restored ecosystems, access to markets, livestock health and breeding, and enhanced livestock extension services, in order to improve productivity, contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and maintain and enhance biodiversity;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate and subject to available resources, in partnership with Member States and United Nations agencies and programmes and other relevant stakeholders, including civil-society organizations, to explore whether there are gaps in the current provision of technical support and environmental and socioeconomic assessments of grasslands, rangelands, soil erosion, land degradation, land tenure security and water security in drylands, including the ongoing assessments of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in order to better understand the implications for sustainable livelihoods, while taking into consideration local and indigenous knowledge and technologies;

10. *Encourages* continental and regional intergovernmental bodies to support joint and cross-border development programmes for neighbouring pastoralist and other communities in order to increase the level of mutual trust and confidence, as well as to mitigate conflicts;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, in partnership with Governments, scientific institutions, United Nations agencies, civil society, pastoralists, communities and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute to the strengthening of the science-policy interface on sustainable pastoralism and rangelands;

12. *Calls on* the international community and other stakeholders to continue supporting the implementation of national, regional and global initiatives to combat desertification and land degradation and promote sustainable pastoralism, such as the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative in Africa, the New York Declaration on Forests and the Bonn Challenge;

13. *Calls on* the United Nations Environment Programme to contribute to raising global awareness of sustainable pastoralism and rangelands, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, relevant conventions and partners;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to consider hosting the Regional Coordination Unit for Africa in order to strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification on the African continent, subject to available funding from the Convention;

15. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly on progress in implementing the present resolution.

2/25. Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in the Latin America and Caribbean Region

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Taking into consideration Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the document "The future we want", adopted by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in particular paragraph 99 in which the Heads of State and Government encouraged action at the regional, national, subnational and local levels to promote access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, as appropriate,

Recognizing that respect for the principles contained in the United Nations Charter of democracy, good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for sustainable development,

Emphasizing that broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings are essential for sustainable development,

Recalling that the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in February 2010 adopted the voluntary Guidelines for the Development of National Legislation on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Bali Guidelines),

Recalling also decision 27/2 of the Governing Council as it relates to the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions, and the need to explore new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies,

Noting the Declaration on the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted by some countries of the region in the framework of the Rio+20 Conference,

Recalling its resolution 1/13, which encourages countries to continue their efforts to strengthen international dialogue, technical assistance and capacity-building in support of the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, and to work to strengthen the rule of law with regard to environmental matters at the international, regional and national levels, and noting the progress made at the regional and national levels,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/1, in which the General Assembly adopted the outcome document of the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Noting the national- and regional-level achievements with regard to strengthening the rights of access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, as well as the ongoing challenges with regard to the implementation of those rights and the specific circumstances of each country,

1. *Encourages* countries to continue their efforts to strengthen international dialogue and cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building in support of the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, taking into account relevant advances, instruments, experiences and practices since its adoption, and to work for the strengthening of environmental rule of law at the international, regional and national levels;

2. *Notes* the progress made in the Latin American and Caribbean region to advance the development of a regional agreement on access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters, as enshrined in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration of 1992, with the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as technical secretariat.

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